

NO.
9

BLACK HOOD

comics

AN
MLJ
MAGAZINE

WINTER ISSUE 10c



I THE
BLACK HOOD
DO SOLEMNLY
SWEAR THAT
NEITHER THREATS...
NOR BRIBES...
NOR BULLETS... NOR
DEATH ITSELF
SHALL KEEP ME
FROM FULFILLING
MY SACRED VOW...
TO ERASE
CRIME FROM THE
FACE OF THE
EARTH!!!

PLUS - the

HANGMAN

PLUS

the

BOY
BUDDIES

WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM



REMOVE UGLY BLACKHEADS OR NO COST

I'D MARRY JIM IF
IT WASN'T FOR THOSE
FILTHY BLACKHEADS
OF HIS

I'LL ASK BOB
TO TALK TO
HIM RIGHT
AWAY

WHY DON'T YOU TRY
VACUTEX FOR THOSE
BLACKHEADS JIM? IT
CERTAINLY HELPED ME

THANKS BOB.
IT SOUNDS
WORTH
TRYING

JIM DARLING,
HOW NICE AND
CLEAN YOU
LOOK!

YOU CAN THANK
VACUTEX
FOR THAT,
HONEY!



AMAZING NEW SCIENTIFIC METHOD

If you have blackheads, you know how embarrassing they are, how they clog your pores, mar your appearance and invite criticism. Now you can solve the problem of eliminating blackheads, forever, with this amazing new VACUTEX Inventon. It extracts filthy blackheads in seconds, painlessly, without injuring or squeezing the skin. VACUTEX creates a gentle vacuum around blackhead! Cleans out hard-to-reach places in a jiffy. Germ laden fingers never touch the skin. Simply place the direction finder over blackhead, draw back extractor . . . and it's out! Release extractor and blackhead is ejected. VACUTEX does it all! Don't risk infection with old-fashioned methods. Order TODAY!

ONLY
THREE
EASY
STEPS

ACTUAL
LENGTH
 $3\frac{1}{2}$ "

UGLY
BLACKHEADS

USE
VACUTEX



RUSH
COUPON
Send No
MONEY

THEY'RE
OUT!

BALCO PRODS. CO., Dept. 8512 516 5th AVE., N.Y., N.Y.

10 DAY TRIAL OFFER

Don't wait until embarrassing criticism makes you act. Don't risk losing out on popularity and success because of ugly dirt-clogged pores. ACT NOW! Enjoy the thrill of having a clean skin, free of pore-clogging, embarrassing blackheads. Try Vacutex for 10 days. We guarantee it to do all we claim. If you are not completely satisfied your \$1.00 will be immediately refunded.

BALCO PRODUCTS COMPANY, Dept. 8512
516 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

- Ship C.O.D. I will pay postman \$1.00 plus postage. My \$1.00 will be refunded if I am not delighted.
 I prefer to enclose \$1.00 now and save postage. (Same guarantee as above.)

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE.....

THE BLACK HOOD

MAN
of
MYSTERY

How
to
kill
the
Black
Hood

TEACHER!
LOOK!

Crime goes to college



OUR SCENE OPENS ON A VERY STRANGE CHARACTER - A VERY STRANGE CHARACTER INDEED, WITH A STRANGE PAST. STEP UP AND MEET... MARKOV!



I CANNOT STOOP TO THE PETTY CRIMES OF THESE AMERICAN THIEVES! THEY HAVE NO IMAGINATION! I WILL STARVE BEFORE I WILL SINK SO LOW AS TO PICK POCKETS!



BUT GREEDY EYES ARE FIXED ON MARKOV... FOR MEN, LACKING HIS FINER SCRUPLES, HAVE SIZED HIM UP AS A VICTIM -



JUMP HIM!



I'LL HOLD HIM!
HURRY!

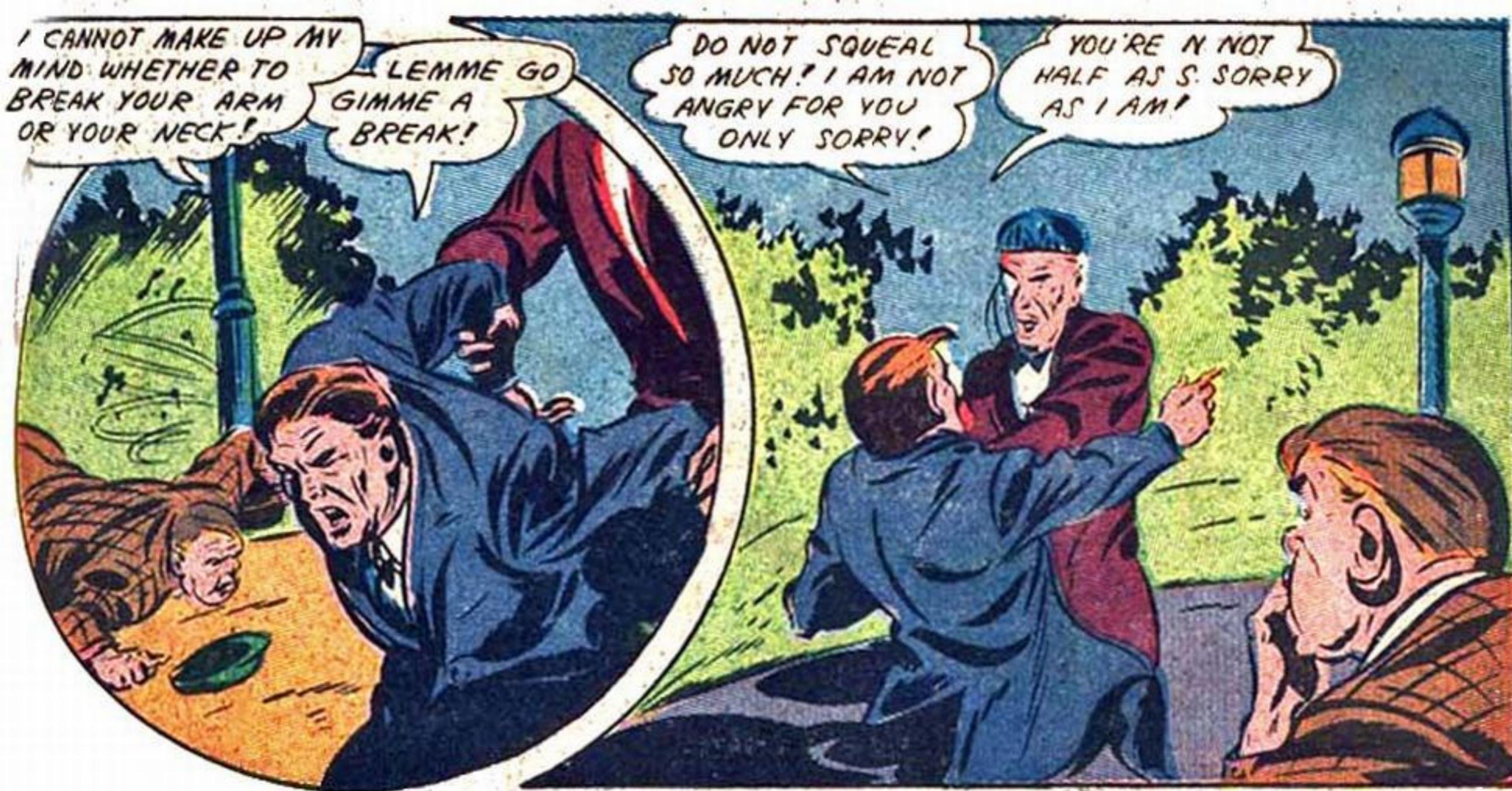
HIS POCKETS
ARE EMPTY!



SO ARE YOUR
HEADS EMPTY...
TO JUDGE FROM
THE SOUND!

WHAT TH...
OOOOOOHWW

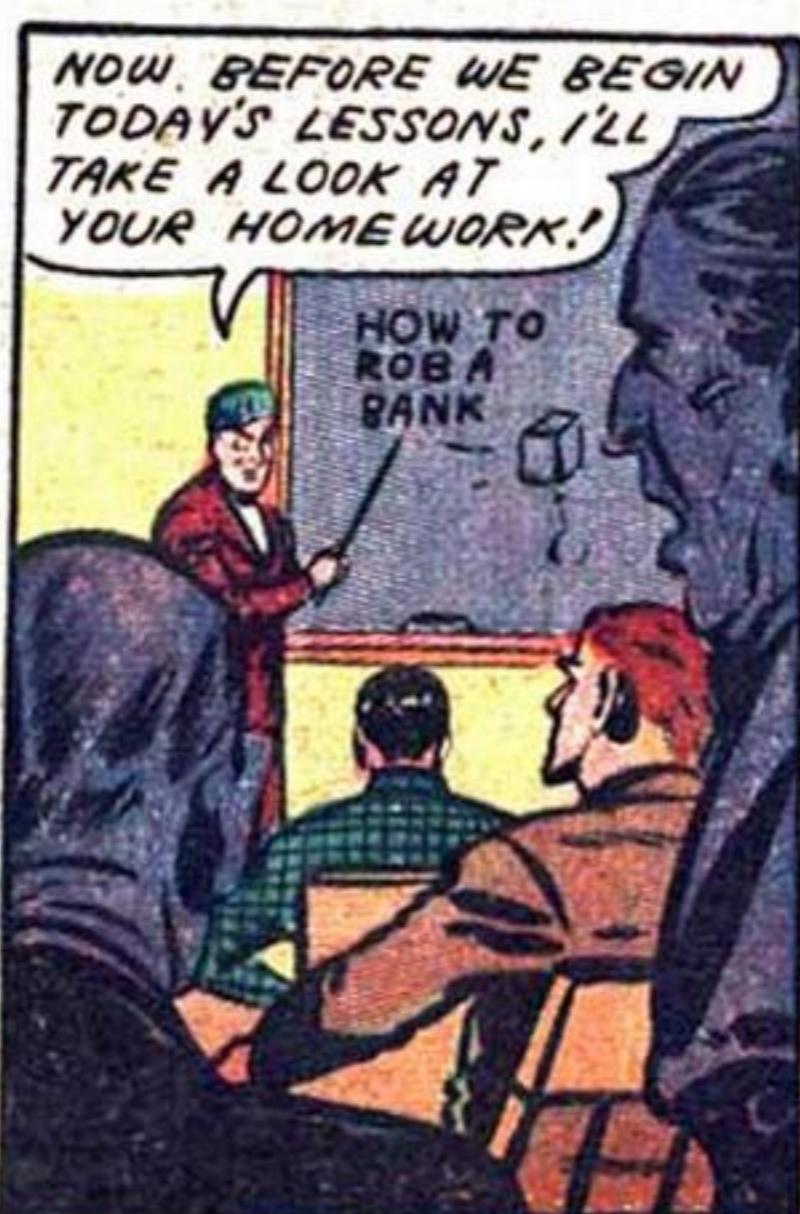
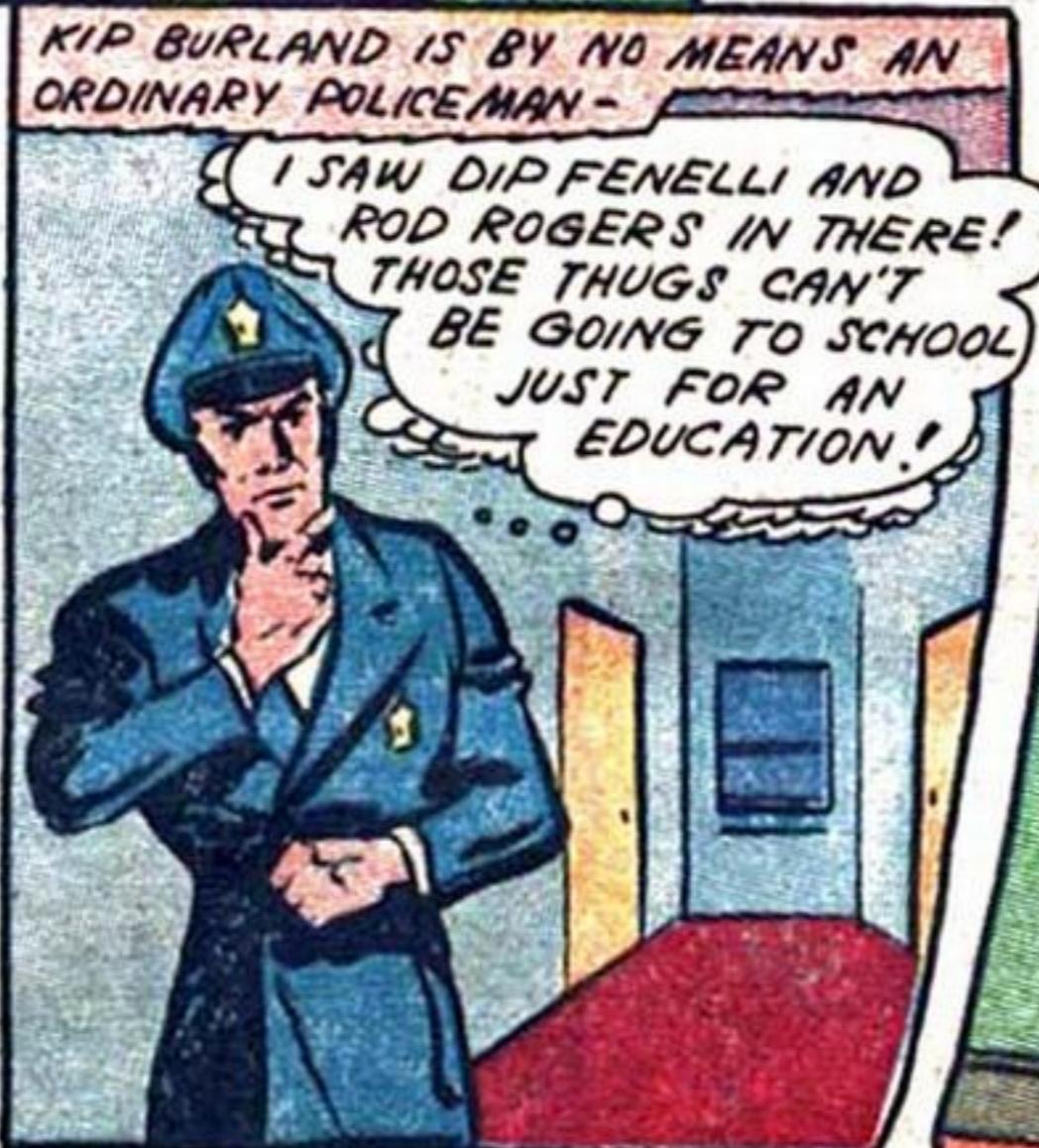
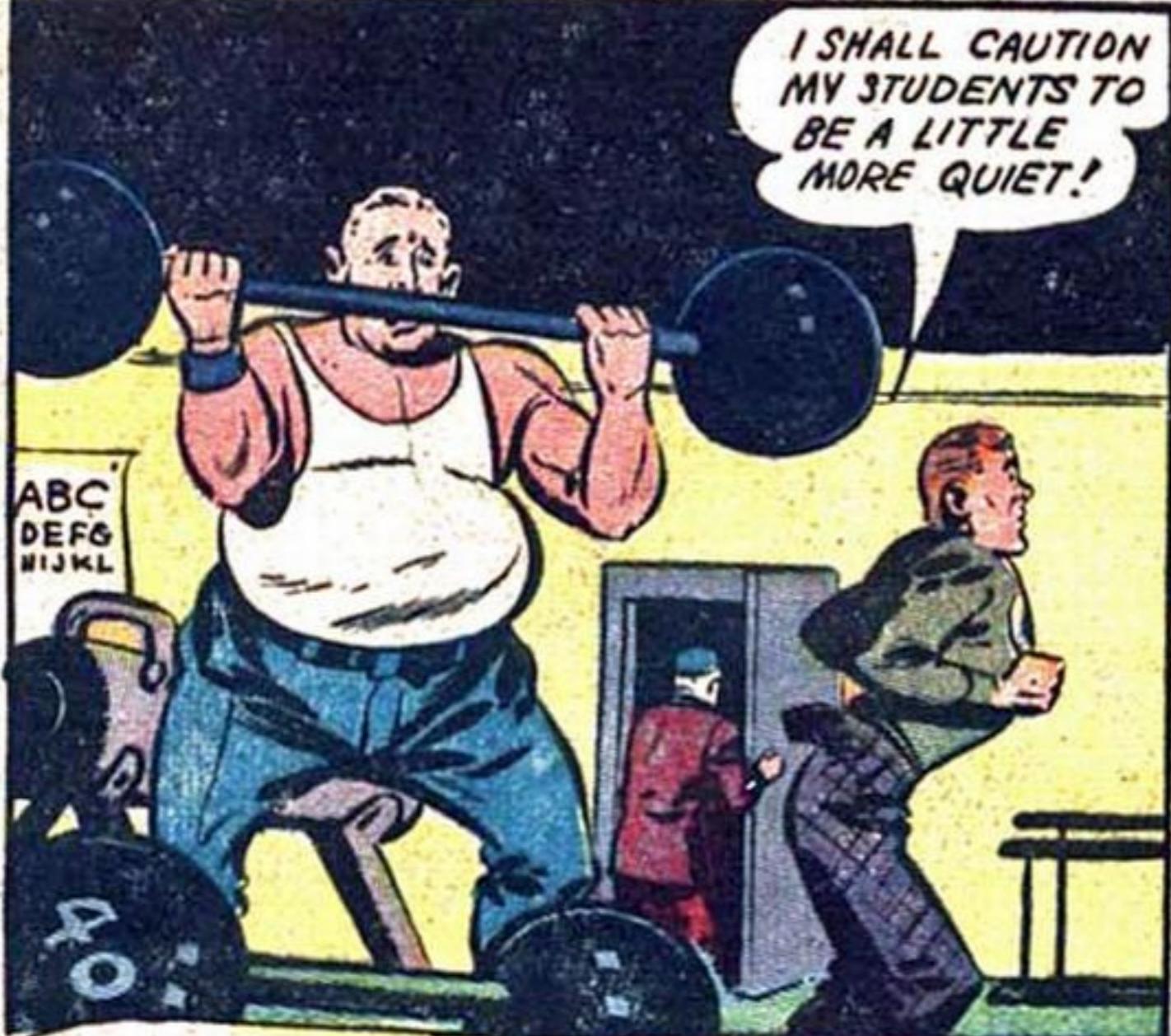




SO MARKOV'S FANTASTIC IDEA WAS BORN. A CRIME SCHOOL! A PLACE WHERE THE IGNORANT WERE TAUGHT--HOW TO AVOID THE POLICE! A COURSE WHOSE GRADUATES WENT FORTH INTO THE WORLD, FIRED BY THE ENTHUSIASM TO MAKE GOOD--AT OTHER PEOPLE'S EXPENSE! MARKOV FLOURISHED AND SO DID CRIME....







DOWN THE ROWS OF EAGER STUDENTS MARKOV GOES, COLLECTING HIS SHARE OF THEIR "HOMEWORK", UNTIL

I... I DIDN'T DO MY HOMEWORK, TEACHER!

WHAT!

I COULDN'T HELP IT! THE WATCHMAN TURNED IN AN ALARM AN' I HADDA BEAT IT!

A POOR EXCUSE!



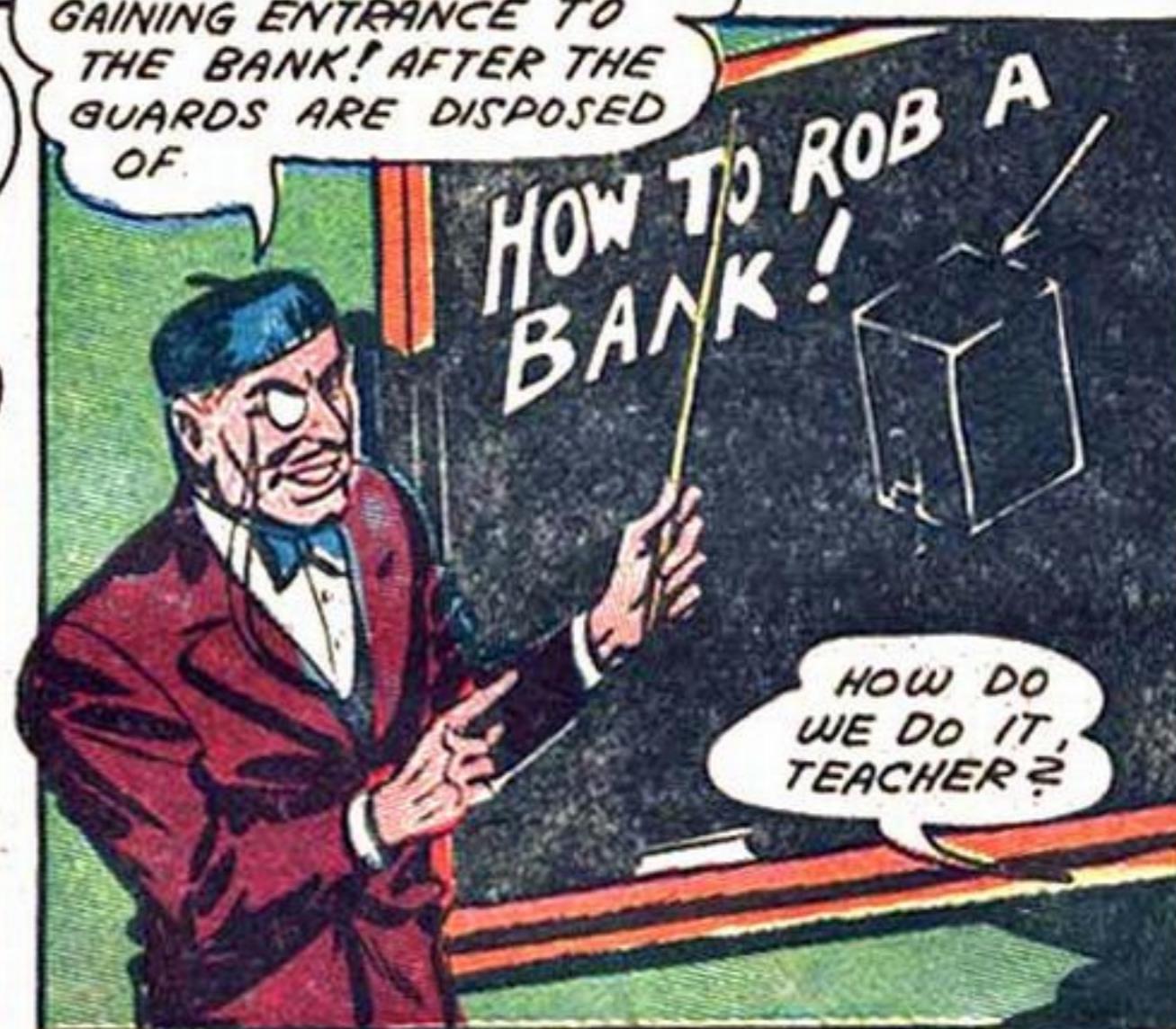
JUST FOR THAT, YOU'LL STAY IN AFTER SCHOOL! YOU CAN'T LEAVE WITH THE OTHERS TO ROB THE SIXTH NATIONAL BANK!

GOSH! I NEVER HAVE FUN!

TODAY'S LESSON WILL TAKE UP VARIOUS METHODS OF GAINING ENTRANCE TO THE BANK! AFTER THE GUARDS ARE DISPOSED OF.

HOW TO ROB A BANK!

HOW DO WE DO IT, TEACHER?

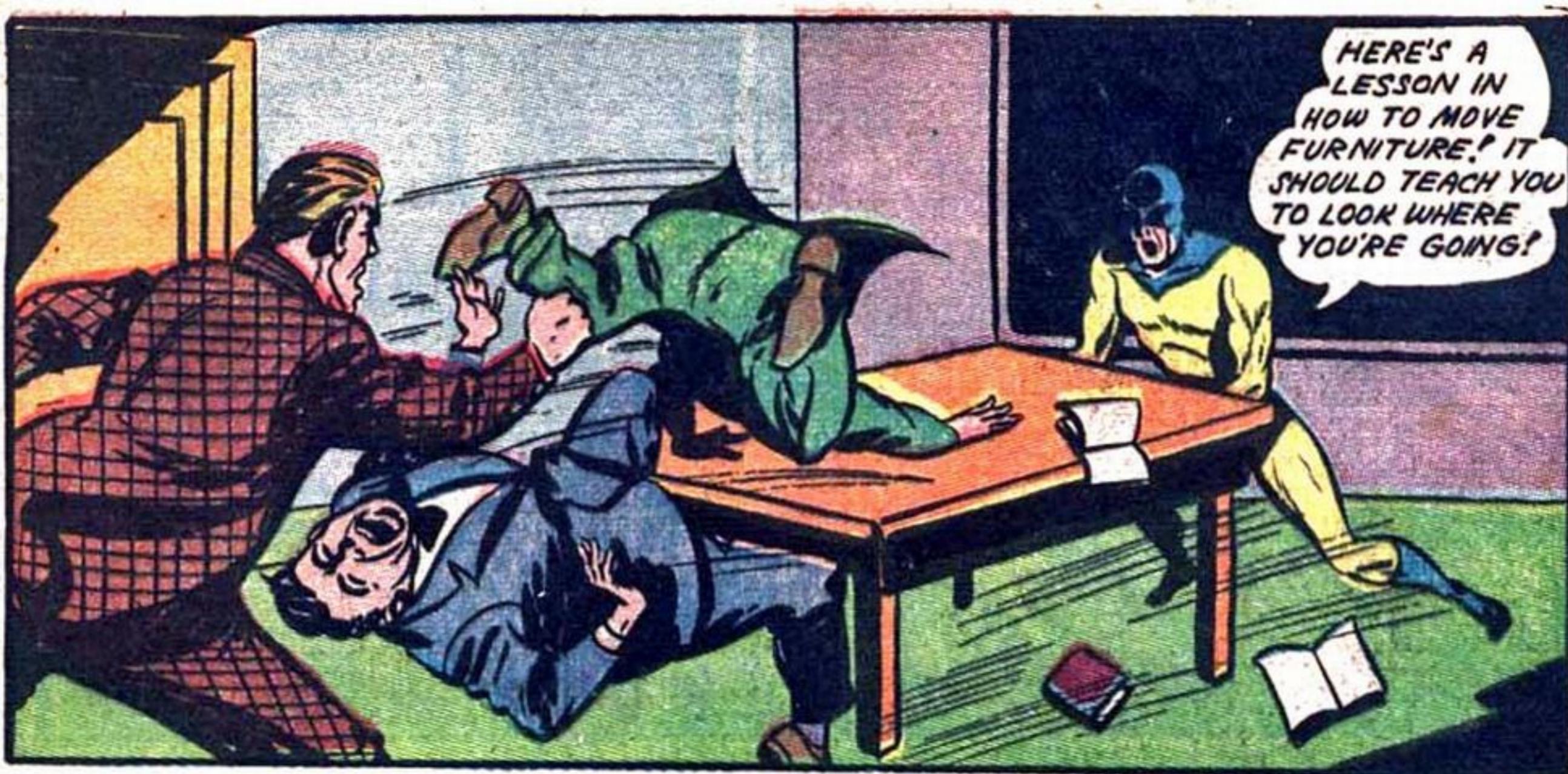


DON'T INTERRUPT! I... ER... GULP!

THE BLACK HOOD! GET HIM STUDENTS!

I'LL ERASE YOU FIRST!





NOW I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU A LESSON!

OOOON

CRACK

YOU SEE, THERE ARE SOME THINGS I DO NOT TEACH TO MY STUDENTS!

SOME TIME LATER, WHEN THE BLACK HOOD RECOVERS-

W.. WHERE AM I?

A DUNCE CAP! A VERY APPROPRIATE SYMBOL... AND A USEFUL METHOD OF EXECUTION!

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?

YOU WILL NOTE THE DUNCE CAP IS MADE OF COPPER! COPPER IS AN EXCELLENT CONDUCTOR OF ELECTRICITY, AND THAT SPELLS YOUR FINISH, MY DEAR HOOD!

THIS DYNAMO GENERATES AN INTENSE MAGNETIC FIELD! MAGNETISM CREATES ELECTRICITY IN THE SURROUNDING AIR... UNTIL THE COPPER IN THE DUNCE CAP WILL BE CHARGED TO A FATAL VOLTAGE!

I HOPE YOU'VE ENJOYED YOUR LESSON IN PRACTICAL ELECTRICITY... AND NOW FAREWELL! MY STUDENTS HAVE AN ASSIGNMENT AT THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK AND I MUST KEEP THEIR NOSES TO THE GRIND-STONE!

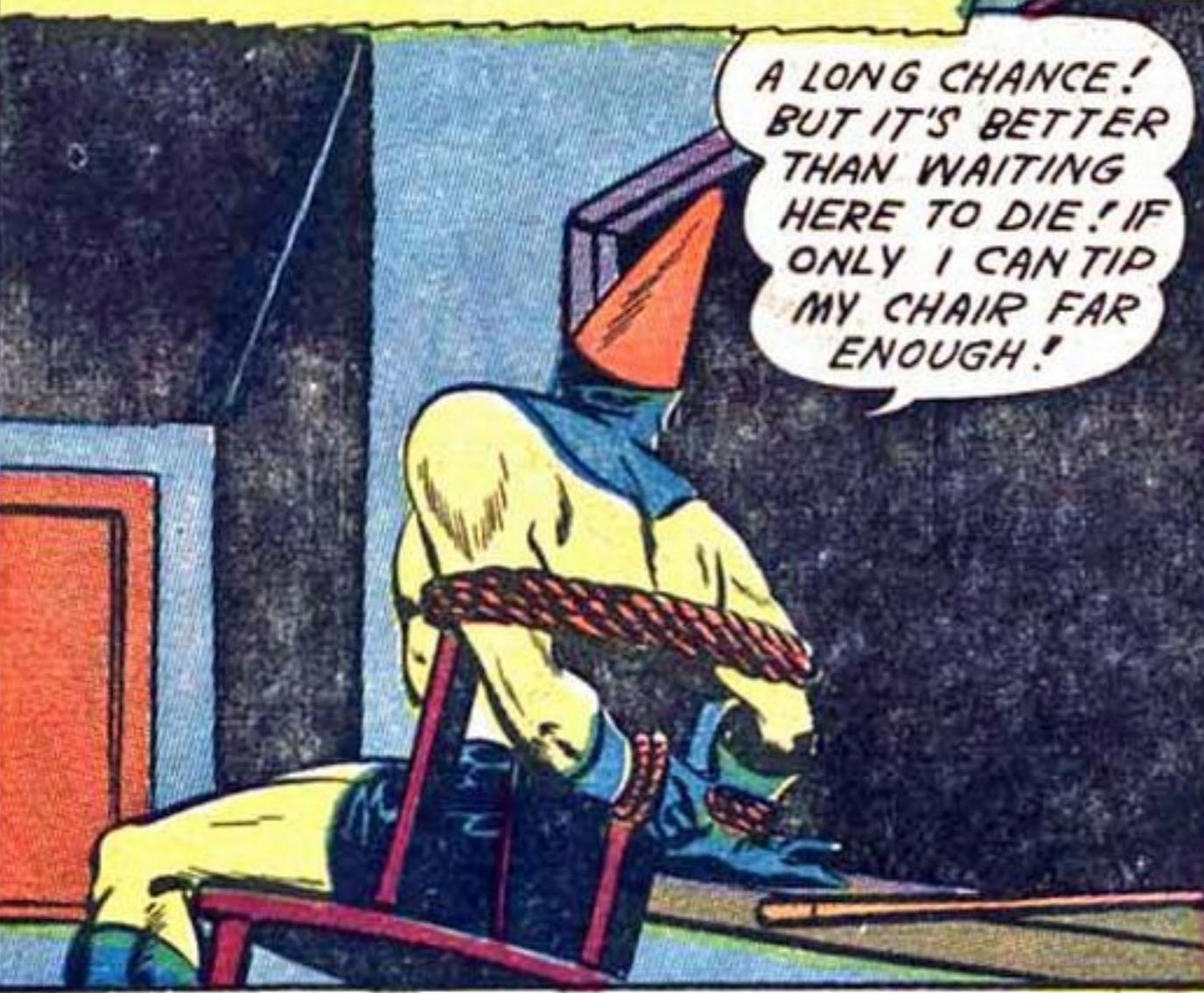
MARKOV CERTAINLY DREAMED UP A FANTASTIC MURDER METHOD! BUT IT'S GOING TO WORK... UNLESS I DO SOMETHING QUICK!

R-R-R-R-R

GLANCING ABOUT HIM, THE BLACK HOOD'S EYES FALL UPON A BLACKBOARD POINTER-

A LONG CHANCE! BUT IT'S BETTER THAN WAITING HERE TO DIE! IF ONLY I CAN TIP MY CHAIR FAR ENOUGH!

I'VE GOT IT!

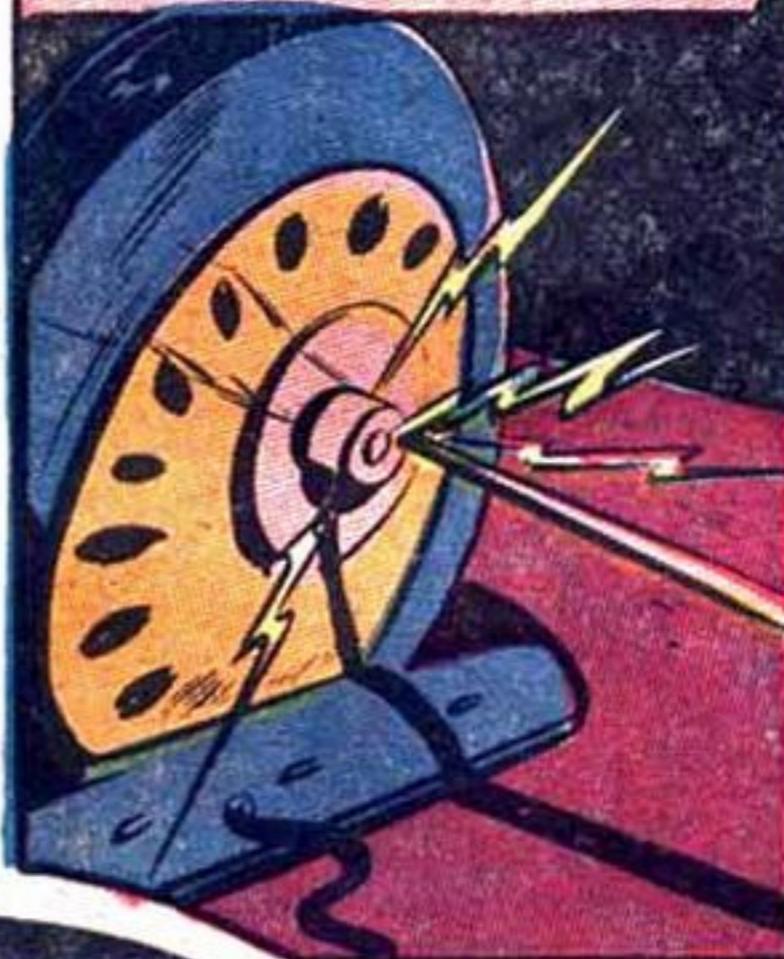


WHAT POSSIBLE HELP CAN AN ORDINARY BLACKBOARD POINTER BE? ... SLOWLY THE BLACK HOOD EXTENDS IT TOWARD THE DYNAMO -

THE METAL EDGE OF THE POINTER CONTACTS THE MOTOR OF THE SPINNING DYNAMO AND -

MADE IT! THE CONTACT OF TWO DIFFERENTLY CHARGED METALS CAUSED A SHORT CIRCUIT! ... NOW TO GET FREE OF THESE BONDS

JUST A LITTLE FURTHER!



A SHORT WHILE LATER

LUCKY FOR ME I KNEW AS MUCH ABOUT ELECTRICITY AS TEACHER DID!

I'VE GOT A DATE WITH THE PROFESSOR! AND I'VE GOT TO CATCH HIM BEFORE HIS CLASS IS DISMISSED!



AT THIS MOMENT, MARKOV IS WAITING NEAR THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK... IN A STRANGE DISGUISE-

YOU'RE A VERY BACKWARD PUPIL! BUT THIS IS NO TIME TO ASK QUESTIONS!

I STILL DON'T GET THE IDEA OF THE FIREMAN'S SUIT! AND WHY AM I RINGIN' THE FIRE ALARM?

DO AS I SAY!

THERE GOES THE ALARM! THINGS SHOULD BEGIN TO HAPPEN - VERY SOON!

P-RIN

TIME
DOW.
124

M

THE ALARM IS FLASHED TO PRECINCT 71....

ROLL OUT THE CAR! THERE'S A FIRE AT ELM AND MAPLE!

WHERE DID KIP BURLAND DISAPPEAR TO?

HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE HERE NOW!

I SENT HIM TO INVESTIGATE A NOISY APARTMENT HOUSE - AND HE'S GONE ALL DAY. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF HE REALLY HAD A JOB TO DO?

WHERE'S THE FIRE?

IN THE BUILDING ON THE CORNER! THE OTHER FIREMEN ARE THERE NOW!

MOMENTS LATER, MARKOV AND HIS STUDENTS IN CRIME MAKE THEIR WAY INTO THE NEARBY BANK-

EVERYBODY CLEAR OUT! THE FIRE MAY SPREAD TO THIS BUILDING!

BUY WAR BON



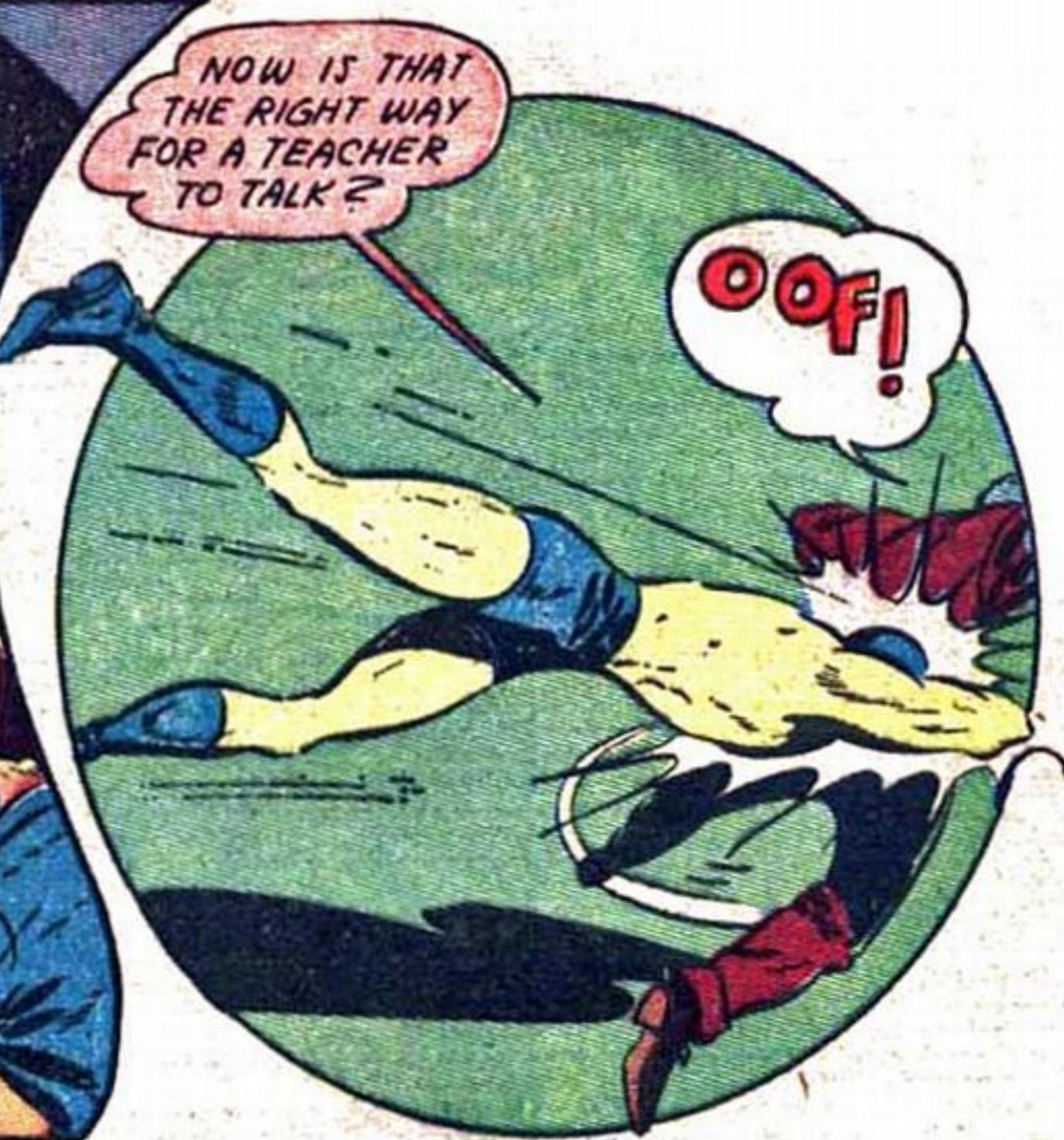


BUT MARKOV'S PATH IS BLOCKED BY
A MOB OF CHILDREN EMERGING
FROM SCHOOL

OUT OF MY WAY,
YOU LITTLE BRATS!
I'M IN A HURRY!

NOW IS THAT
THE RIGHT WAY
FOR A TEACHER
TO TALK?

OOF!



NEXT DAY--AT THE STATION HOUSE
OF PRECINCT 71--

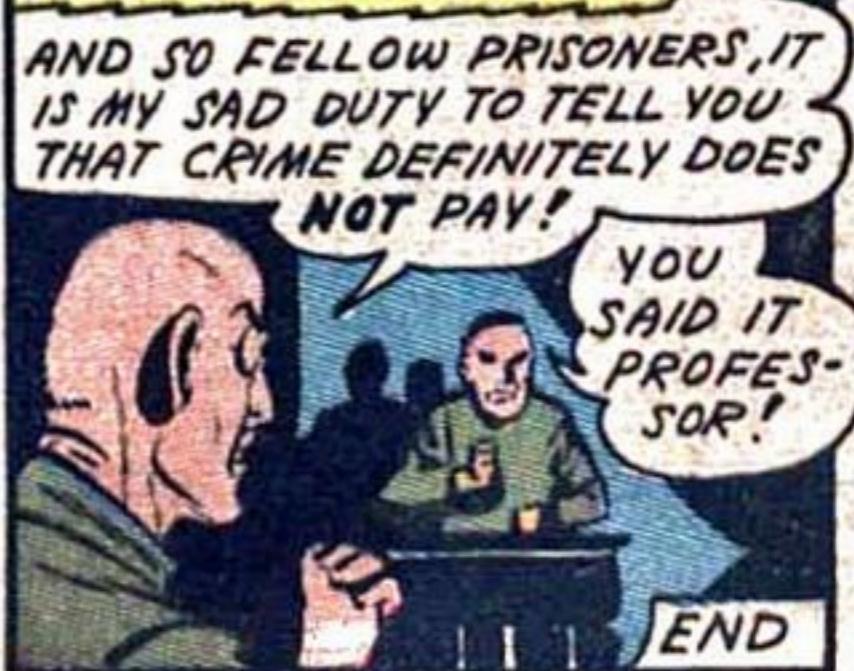
WHAT ARE THAT TEAR GAS! IN
THE DARK GLASSES FOR, THE FORCE, I NEVER
MET A TOUGHER SARGE?
MY TWENTY YEARS ON
CROOK THAN MARKOV!
BUT I PUT HIM SAFELY
BEHIND BARS!

I'LL DO MY
HOOD IS STILL BEST, SARGE!
AT LARGE! I'LL STICK
THAT'S YOUR TO HIM LIKE
JOB, KIP!
HIS OWN
SHADOW!, I
PROMISE!

WHAT HAS
HAPPENED TO MARKOV? LET
US LOOK IN ON A QUIET PRISON
SCHOOL ROOM TO SEE THE MAST-
ER ROGUE AT WORK -

AND SO FELLOW PRISONERS, IT
IS MY SAD DUTY TO TELL YOU
THAT CRIME DEFINITELY DOES
NOT PAY!

YOU
SAID IT
PROFES-
SOR!



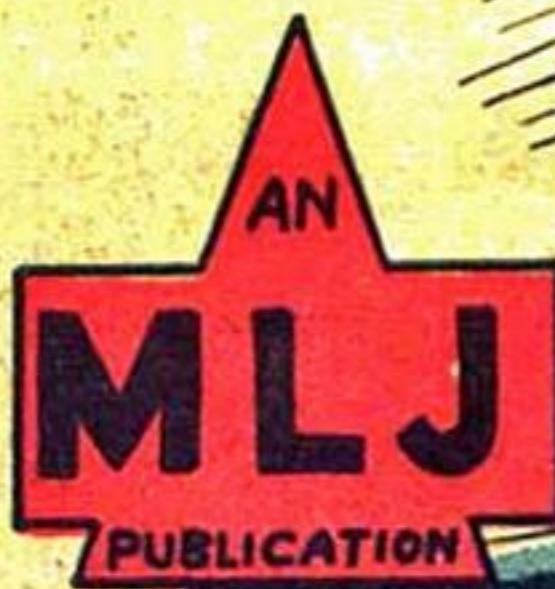
END

Archie

is an MLJ feature

JUMPIN' GEE!!
I WOULDN'T WANT
TO BE IN ARCHIE'S
PLACE FOR
ANYTHING!

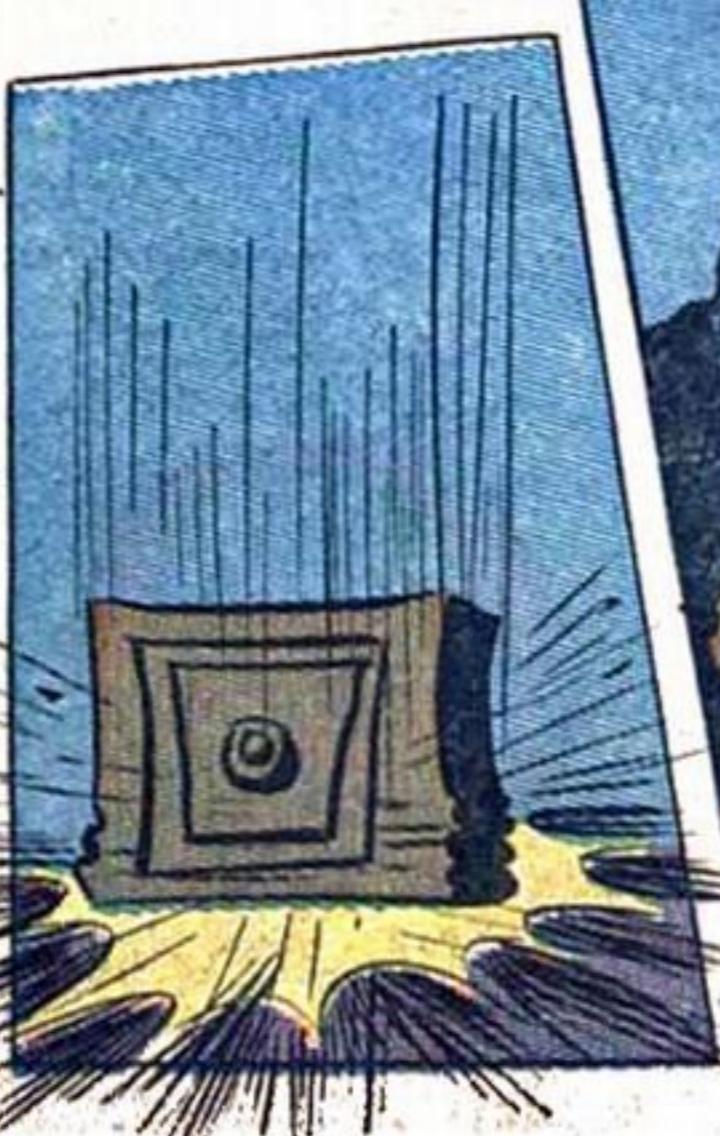
HA! HA! YEAH, HE
SURE IS HOT
STUFF!



WATCH
OUT
BELOW!

HEH! HEH
THE TROUBLE
THAT KID, ARCHIE
GETS INTO!

DANGER
ZONE



THE MAN OF MYSTERY BLACK HOOD



THE CASE OF

THE

MEDICAL MURDERER

IN HIS PRIVATE HOSPITAL, DR. WALTER ANTHONY SPENDS LONG HOURS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH--

MAY I SPEAK TO YOU, DOCTOR?

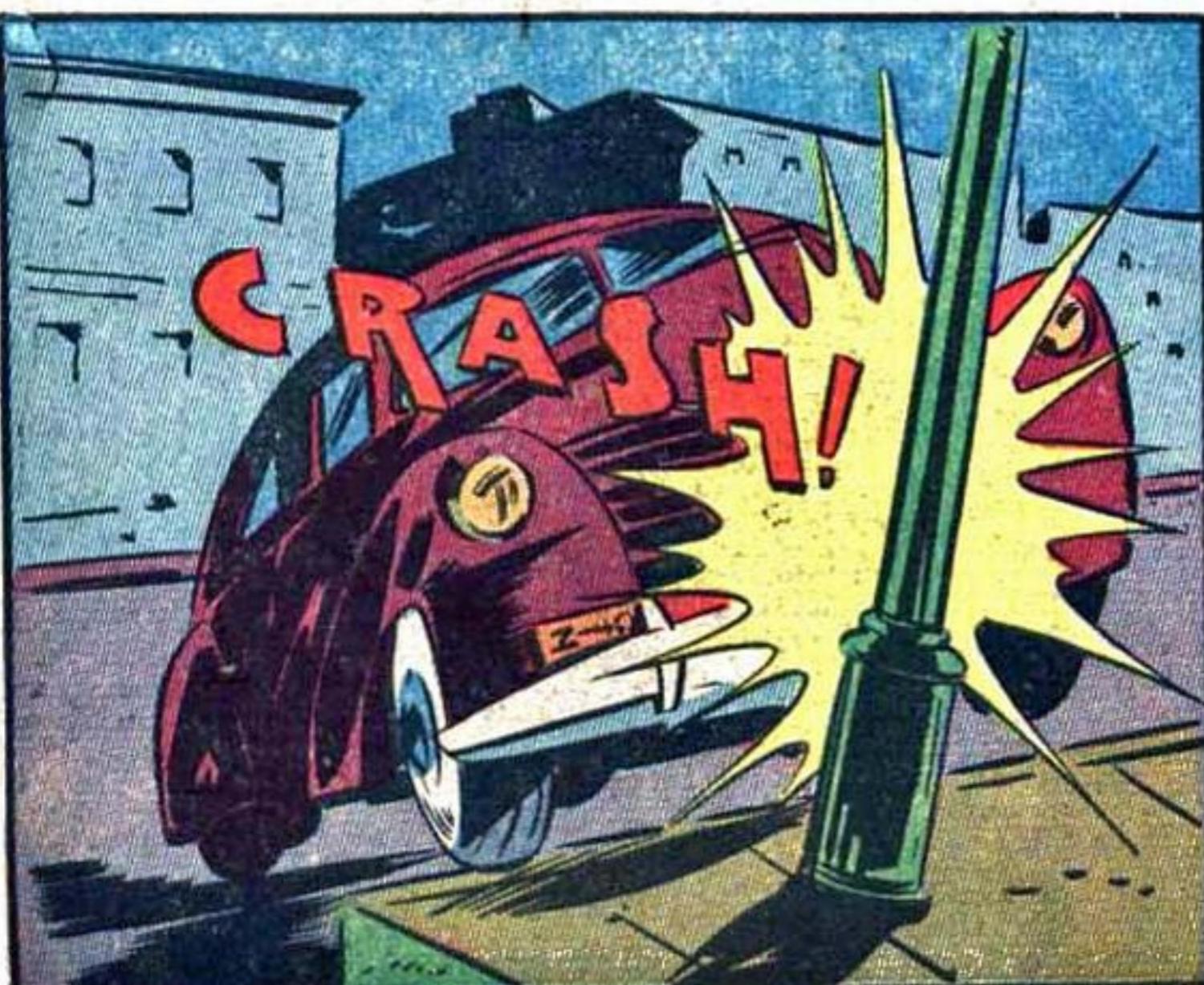
I'M BUSY.. VERY BUSY!

BUT THE CREDITORS DEMAND PAYMENT OF THESE BILLS!

HOW DARE YOU BOTHER ME WITH FINANCES! THIS IS A PLACE OF SCIENCE.. NOT AN ACCOUNTANT'S OFFICE!



AT THAT MOMENT, NOT FAR FROM THE HOSPITAL--



SNOWBIRD'S DONE FOR!
I'M LUCKY TO GET OUT ALIVE!



THIS MAN'S BADLY HURT! PREPARE HIM FOR SURGERY AT ONCE!

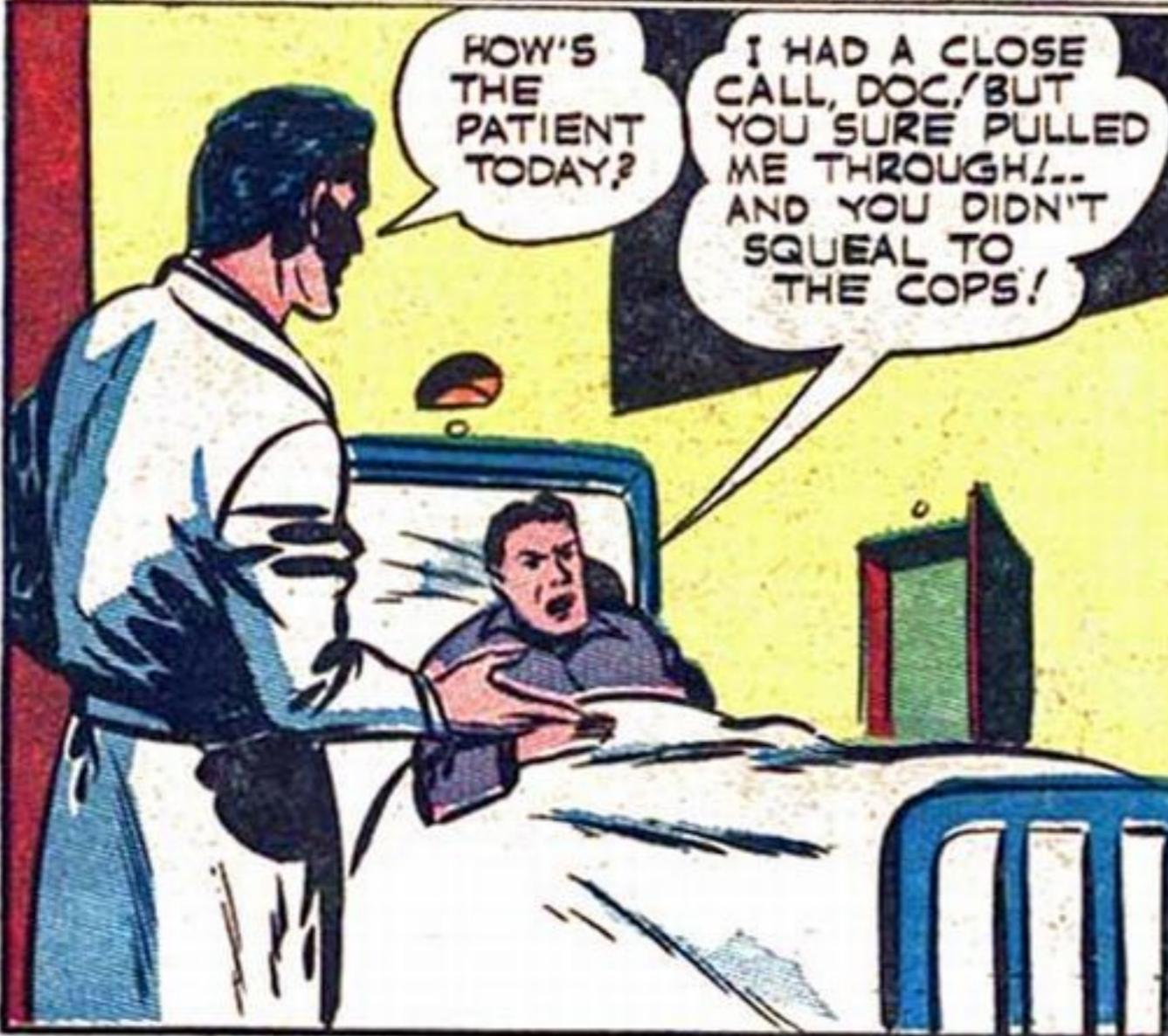
Y.. YES, DOCTOR!

MEANWHILE...

THIS IS KILLER KANE'S CAR! HE CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR!



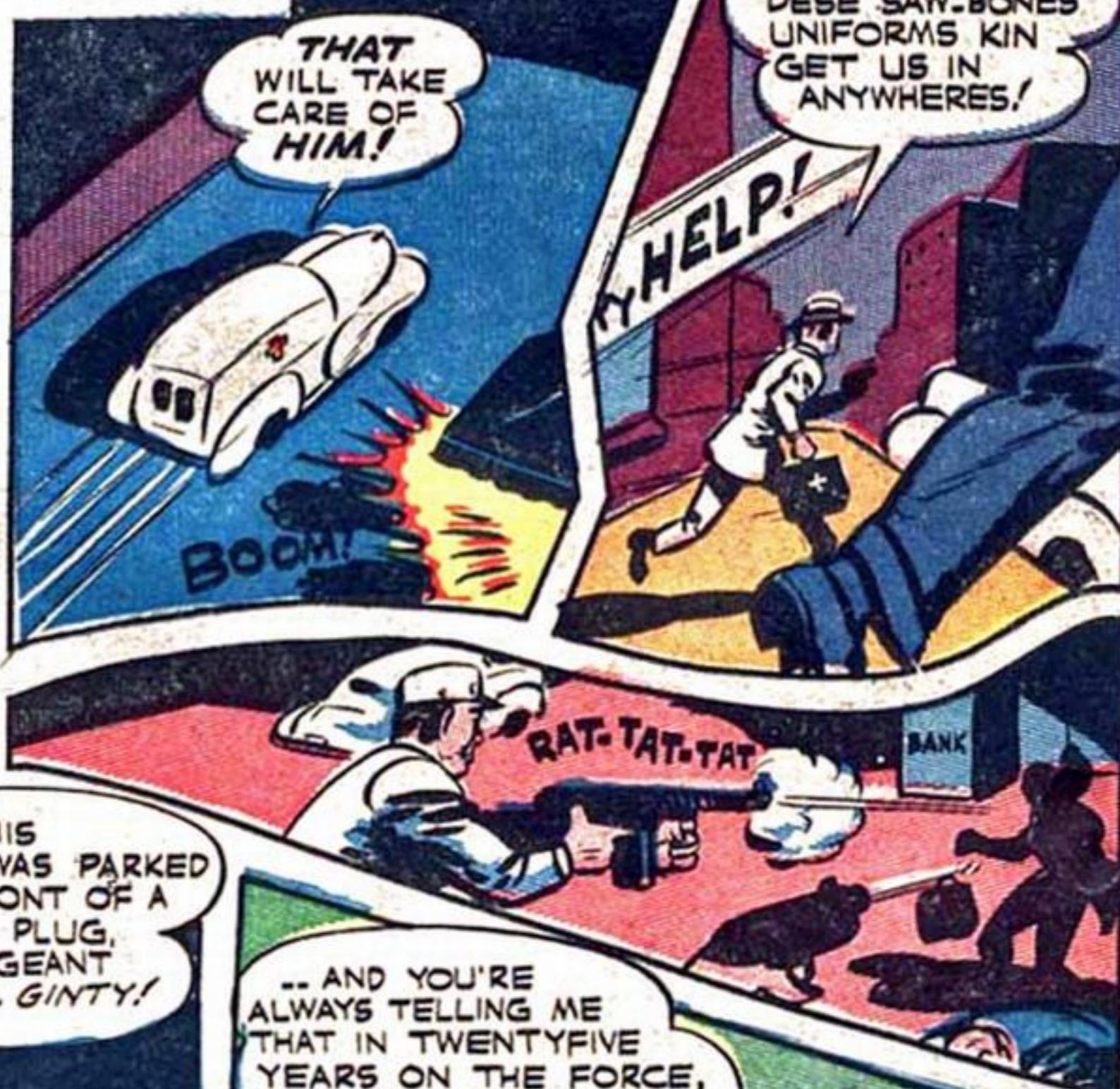
IF THE BLACK HOOD HAD BEEN PRESENT AT ANOTHER SCENE SEVERAL DAYS LATER, HE MIGHT HAVE CHANGED HIS MIND...



I RECOGNIZED YOU AS KILLER KANE, THE BIG TIME MOBSTER! AND I THINK WE CAN WORK OUT A SCHEME THAT WILL BE...ER... MUTUALLY PROFITABLE!

SO THAT'S IT! I THOUGHT THERE MUST BE SOMETHING IN IT FOR YOU!

AND SO THE ENSUING WEEKS ARE FILLED WITH STRANGE AND DARING CRIMES--ALL COMMITTED BY WHITE GARBED FIGURES OF INTERNES--AND AMBULANCES FOR GETAWAY CARS...



WHAT'S THAT?

ANOTHER ROBBERY!

ROBBERY AT SMITH AND DALE STREETS? COME ON, BURLAND!

RIGHT WITH YOU, SARGE!



NOW I'LL SHOW YOU HOW A REAL COP... HEY!

BUY WAR BONDS

THAT DUMB PODO IN THE AMBULANCE NEARLY HIT US!

SHALL I GO AFTER HIM?

WHEEEEEE



NEVER MIND! WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THAT ROBBERY! NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT McGINTY LET A CROOK ESCAPE!

SECONDS LATER...

WHERE'S THE ROBBERY?

YOU'RE TOO LATE! THREE MEN, DRESSED LIKE DOCTOR'S INTERNES, ROBBED THE BANK!





THE COMMISSIONER WILL PROMOTE ME FOR THIS! I'LL PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR YOU, TOO!

THAT SAROE!

YOU KNOW, I SUSPECTED THIS DR. ANTHONY RIGHT FROM THE FIRST MINUTE!

I'LL BET YOU DID, SAROE!

WHEEEEEE

POLICE

SAROE

QUICK

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

YOU CAN'T GO IN! DR. ANTHONY'S EXAMINING A PATIENT!

I'LL CATCH HIM RED HANDED! OUT OF THE WAY... KEEP YOUR GUN HANDY, BURL AND!

GULP... THAT IS... I MEAN...

MCGINTY! WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

NOTHING! I THOUGHT... ER.. THIS HOSPITAL WAS A HIDEOUT FOR.. ER.. CRIMINALS! BUT Y. YOU'RE ME? I'M THE NOT A.C. CRIMINAL!

I SHOULD HOPE NOT!

REMEMBER POLICE COMMISSIONER ??

McGINTY!

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

NOTHING! I THOUGHT... ER.. THIS HOSPITAL WAS A HIDEOUT FOR.. ER.. CRIMINALS! BUT Y. YOU'RE ME? I'M THE NOT A.C. CRIMINAL!

I SHOULD HOPE NOT!

REMEMBER POLICE COMMISSIONER ??

GET OUT BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER COMPLETELY! OR I'LL BREAK EVERY BONE IN YOUR HEAD!

Y-YESIR!

ALL YOUR FAULT! ANY FOOL COULD TELL DR. ANTHONY WAS A GENT! WELL... WE HAD IT AS WELL GO BACK!

I'LL WALK, SARGE! YOU GO AHEAD!



MINUTES LATER KIP BUR-LAND BECOMES THE BLACK HOOD...

I STILL THINK THERE'S SOMETHING CROOKED ABOUT THAT HOSPITAL!

SO I'LL PAY A VISIT AS THE BLACK HOOD!

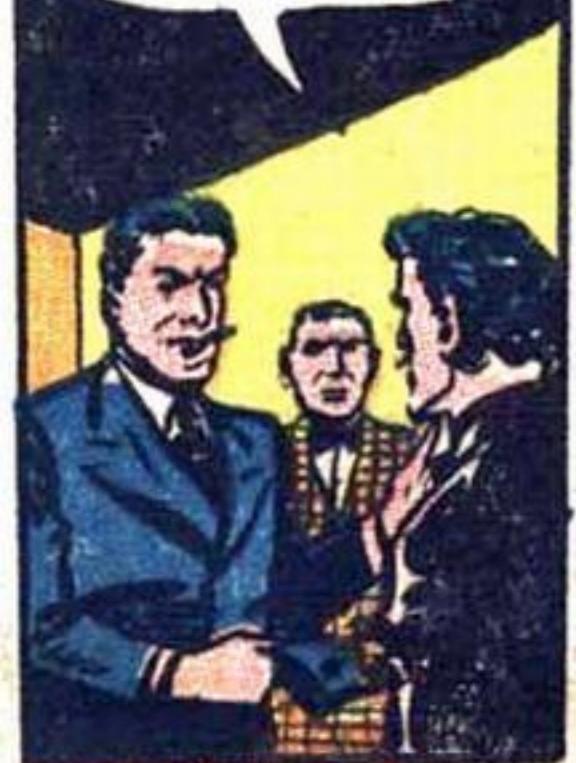


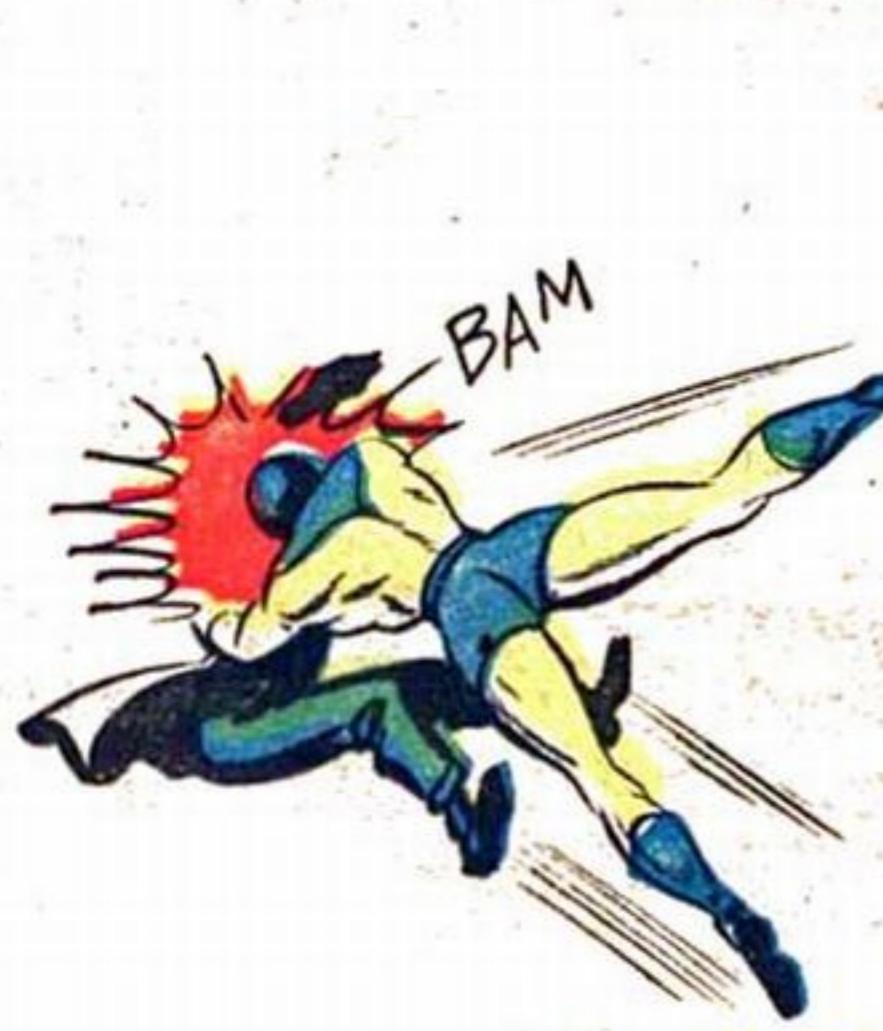
THAT SURE WAS A SMART IDEA.. HAVING THE POLICE COMMISSIONER HERE AS A FRONT!

I RUN THIS PLACE AS A RESPECTABLE HOSPITAL!

SURE! BUT THAT AIN'T WHERE YOU MAKE YOUR PROFIT, EH DOC?

THIS MONEY MERELY ENABLES ME TO CARRY ON MY MEDICAL RESEARCH WITHOUT ANNOYING INTERRUPTION!





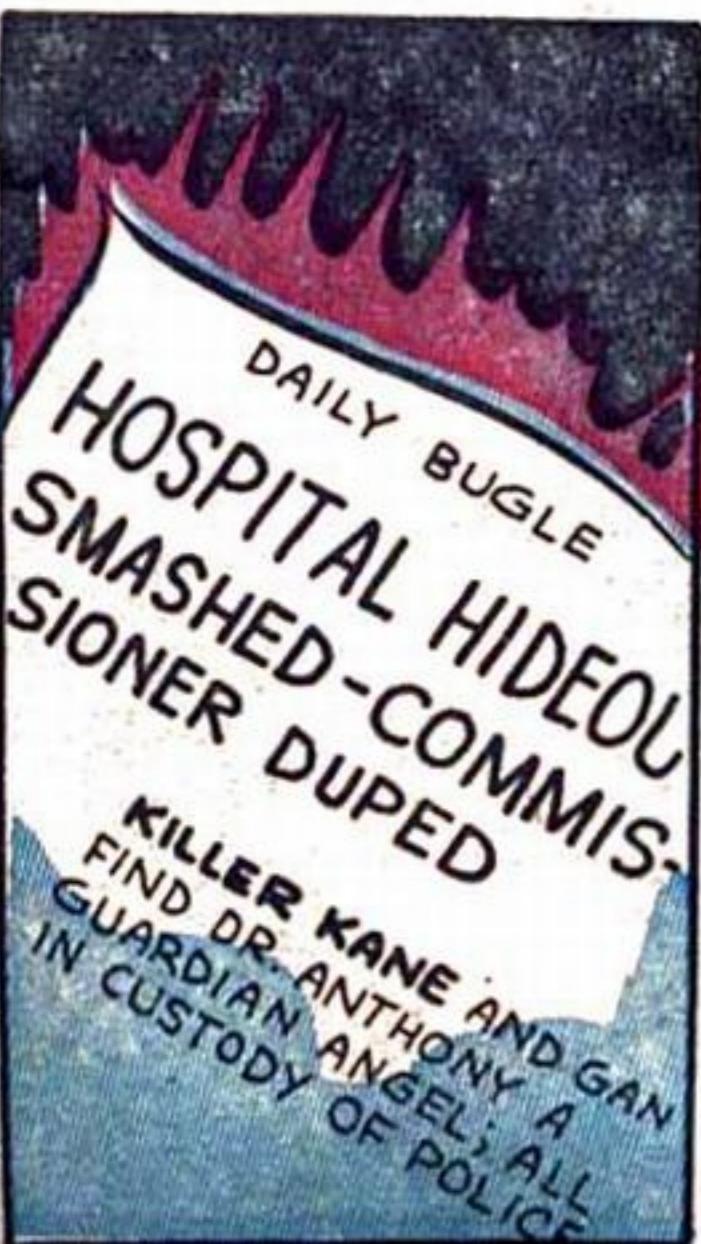
NEXT DAY

GOSH, SARGE
HOPE THE COM-
MISSIONER ISN'T
SORE AT ME
FOR MAKING
HIM LOOK LIKE
A SUCKER!
I'LL FIX
IT!

DON'T
WORRY KIP
HE WON'T
PUT YOU
OUT IN
THE STICKS!

LIKE
FUN HE
DID!

CITY
LIMITS



ER.. I'M VERY
SORRY, BUT MR.
PLUNK'S TIED UP
IN A CONFERENCE..
AND CAN'T BE
DISTURBED!



SHHHEE!

THE JERK!
HE WOULD
PICK A TIME
LIKE THIS TO
READ STEEL
STERLING!



HEY!
COME BACK
WITH MY
COPY OF
ZIP
COMICS!



M. L. J. "LEADS THE WAY"

THE CRIME CONFESSORS

RAGING FLOOD OUTSIDE
WITH THE TURBULENT WATERS RISING
HIGHER AND HIGHER! INSIDE, AN AIR-
TIGHT ROOM, SAFE FROM THE SWIRLING
TORRENT BUT WITH ONLY ENOUGH OX-
YGEN TO LAST A FEW HOURS AND THEN--
DEATH! WITH THE GRIM REAPER AT
YOUR ELBOW IN THIS HOPELESS TRAP,
WOULD YOU CONFESS AS THESE HOPE-
LESS THREE DID?--BARE YOUR SOUL
AND RENOUNCE ALL EVIL IF BY
CHANCE AND THE GRACE OF GOD
YOU WERE SPARED? AND IF YOU WERE
SPARED WOULD YOU UPHOLD YOUR
NOBLE VOW? THAT WAS THE PUZZLE
FACING THE HANGMAN AS
FOUR TARNISHED SOULS POURED
FORTH THEIR BLACKEST
SECRETS AND SWEORE TO
REPENT---

BUT DID THEY?

B.F.U.E.

THE HANGMAN



OUR STORY BEGINS AFTER DAYS OF VIOLENT STORMS IN WHICH THE MIGHTY RIVER BECOMES A RAGING FLOOD...



...TRAPPED BY THE DELUGE ARE BOB DICKERING AND THELMA GORDON...

GOOD LORD! THIS IS THE WORST FLOOD THE COUNTRY HAS EVER SEEN!

BOB! LOOK BEHIND YOU!



A GREAT WALL OF WATER SURGES FORWARD...

QUICK THEL, DOWN INTO THIS CHURCH BASEMENT! IT HAS WATERTIGHT DOORS!



WE'LL BE SAFE... UH... I CAN'T CLOSE THE...

BOB WAIT...

LET US IN TOO, IN HEAVENS NAME!



FOUR BEDRAGGLED FIGURES STUMBLE IN...

OH, THANK GOD!

QUICK! SHUT THE DOOR!



THERE! OKAY, RELAX FOLKS! WE'RE SAFE NOW! WE CAN STAY A WEEK IF NECESSARY, TILL THE FLOOD SUBSIDES!

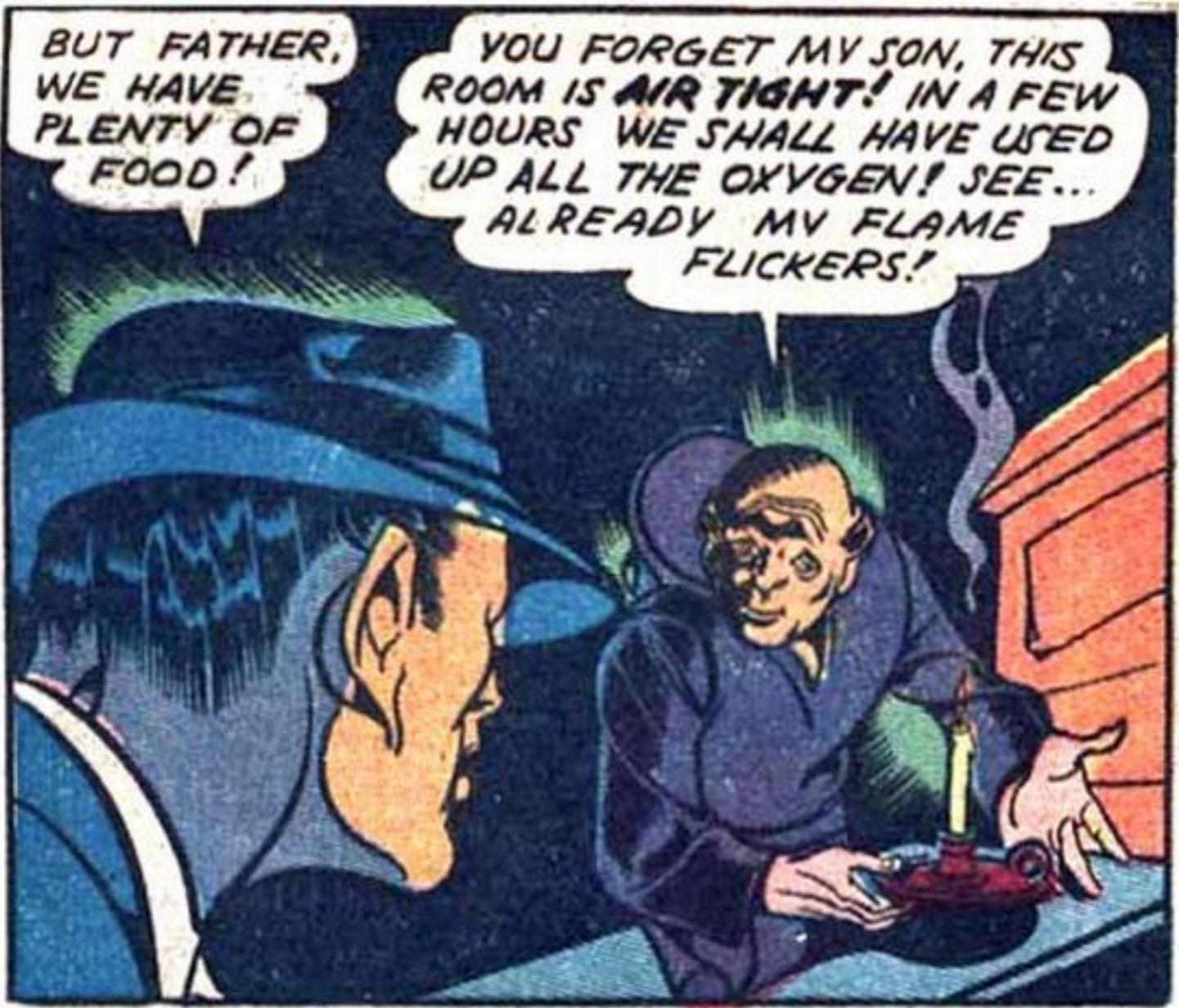


SUDDENLY...

WHAT THE... A PRIEST!

YES! I'M FATHER PAUL AND I WOULDN'T BE TOO OPTIMISTIC IF I WERE YOU!





LOOK! THE CANDLE! IT'S ALMOST OUT!
SOON WE WON'T HAVE ANY AIR TO
BREATHE! I...I...CAN FEEL IT...ALREADY.



OH, FATHER.
WHAT WILL
WE DO?

MY CHILDREN, SOON WE WILL
MEET OUR MAKER! COME
CONFESS YOUR SINS AND
FACE THE WORLD BEYOND
WITH A CLEAN SOUL!



ONE BY ONE, WITH DEATH AT
THEIR HEELS, THE TRAPPED ONES
CONFESS THEIR SINS...

FATHER, I AM ROGER DALTON! A BUSINESS MAN! I HOARDED SUPPLIES..TIN..RUBBER, BEEF.. AND SOLD IT ON THE BLACK MARKET.. I'VE BEEN A ROTTEN..
I...I...

YOU SHALL BE FOR-
GIVEN FOR
SEEING THE
LIGHT

YES, I DO SEE THE LIGHT! IF BY SOME MIRACLE OF GOD WE SURVIVE, I WILL GIVE AWAY ALL MY HOARDED GOODS FREE! SWEAR IT ON MY SOUL!

FATHER, I AM PRUDENCE PRIMM! A...A SPINSTER!! LIVE ALONE WITH MY SISTER AND PLANNED TO KILL HER, OUT OF HATE! OHH THE SHAME OF IT!

GOOD HEAVENS!
WHAT DOESN'T
COME OUT AT
A TIME LIKE
THIS!

THE OTHER TWO!
WONDER IF THEY
HAVE ANYTHING ON
THEIR MINDS!

AND YOU, MY SON! TO WHAT EVILS DO YOU CONFESS?

CONFESS? NUTS!
DIPPY DIRK, DAT'S
ME, ROBBER AND
MOIDERER! BUT I
AIN'T SORRY! SEE?

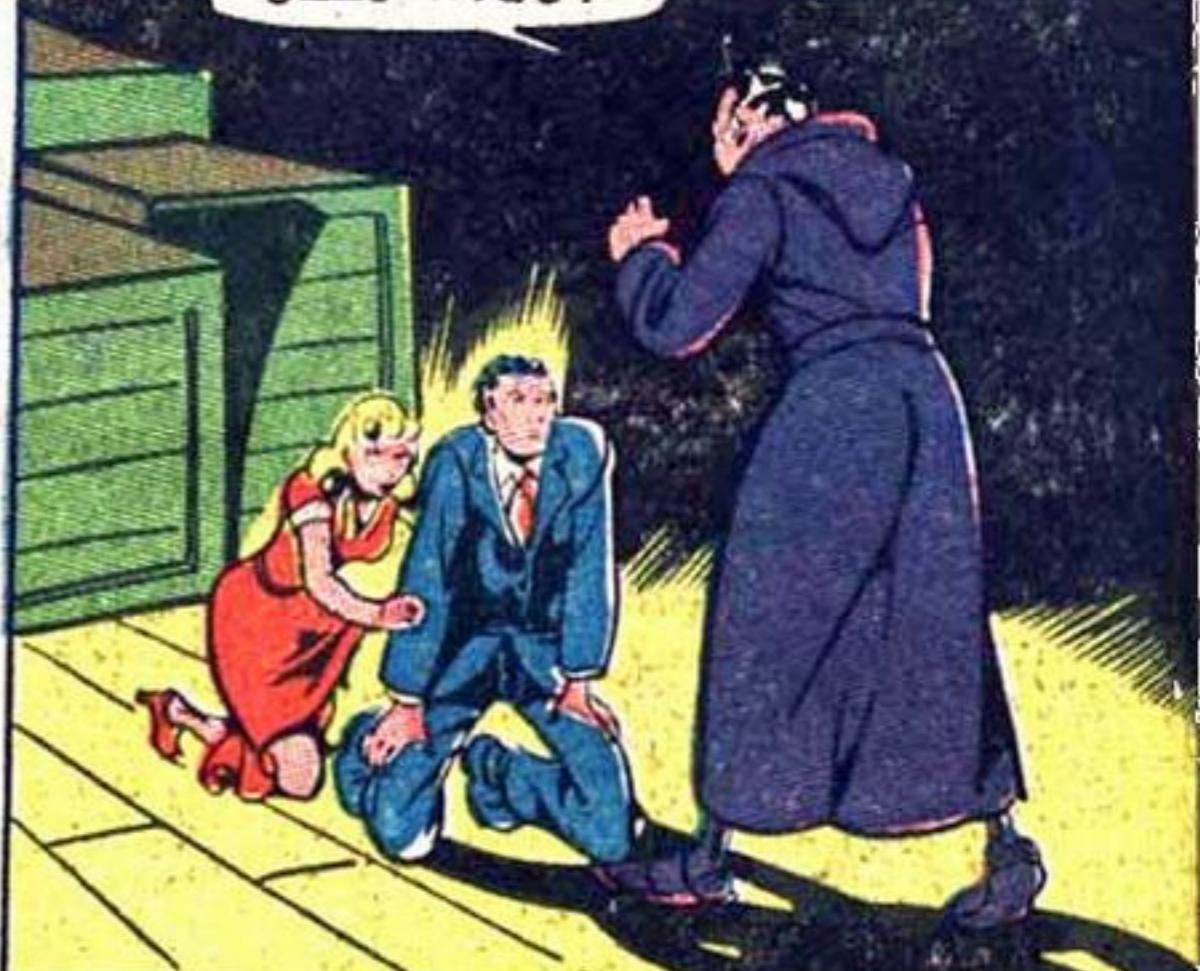


AN' IF I EVER GET OUTA DIS JOINT, I'LL GO RIGHT ON ROBBIN' AN' CHISELIN'! YOU CAN'T SCARE ME WID DIS CONFESSTION BUNK!

THE ANGELS CAN ONLY WEEP, MY SON! A NON-PENITENT SOUL!



THERE IS LITTLE TIME, MY CHILDREN! WHATEVER YOUR RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS, COME, LET ME GIVE YOU MY BLESSINGS!



JUST THEN

WHAT'S DA USE O' WAITIN'? YER ALL AFRAID TO DIE HA HA HA! BUT NOT ME! I'LL LET THE WATER IN AN' YOU'LL MEET YOUR MAKER! HA HA HA

YOU FOOL! STOP!



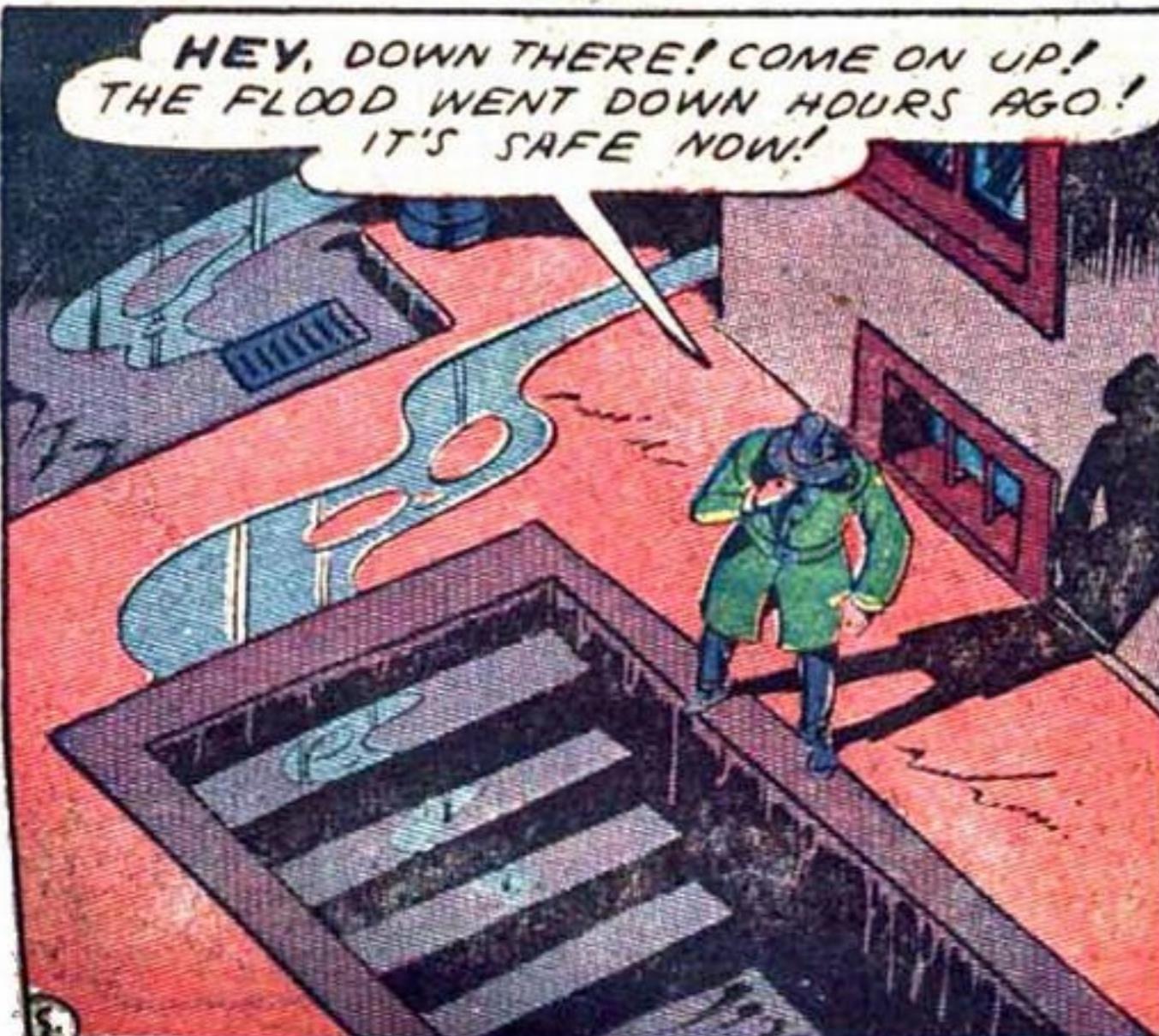
THE CRAZED GUNMAN SWINGS WIDE THE DOORS...

AND NOW... HUH? THE WATER! IT'S GONE

TH-THE FLOOD MUST BE OVER!



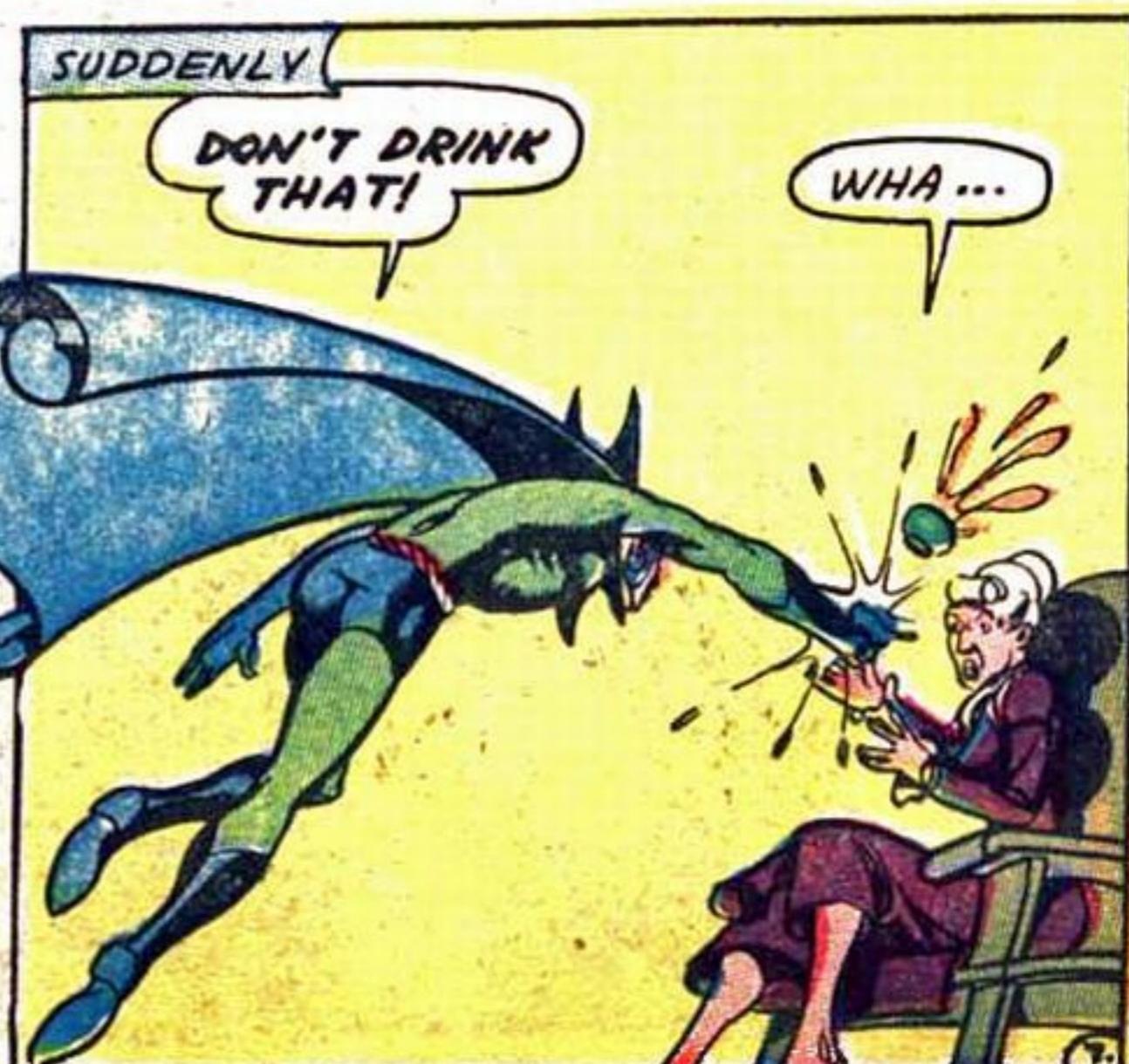
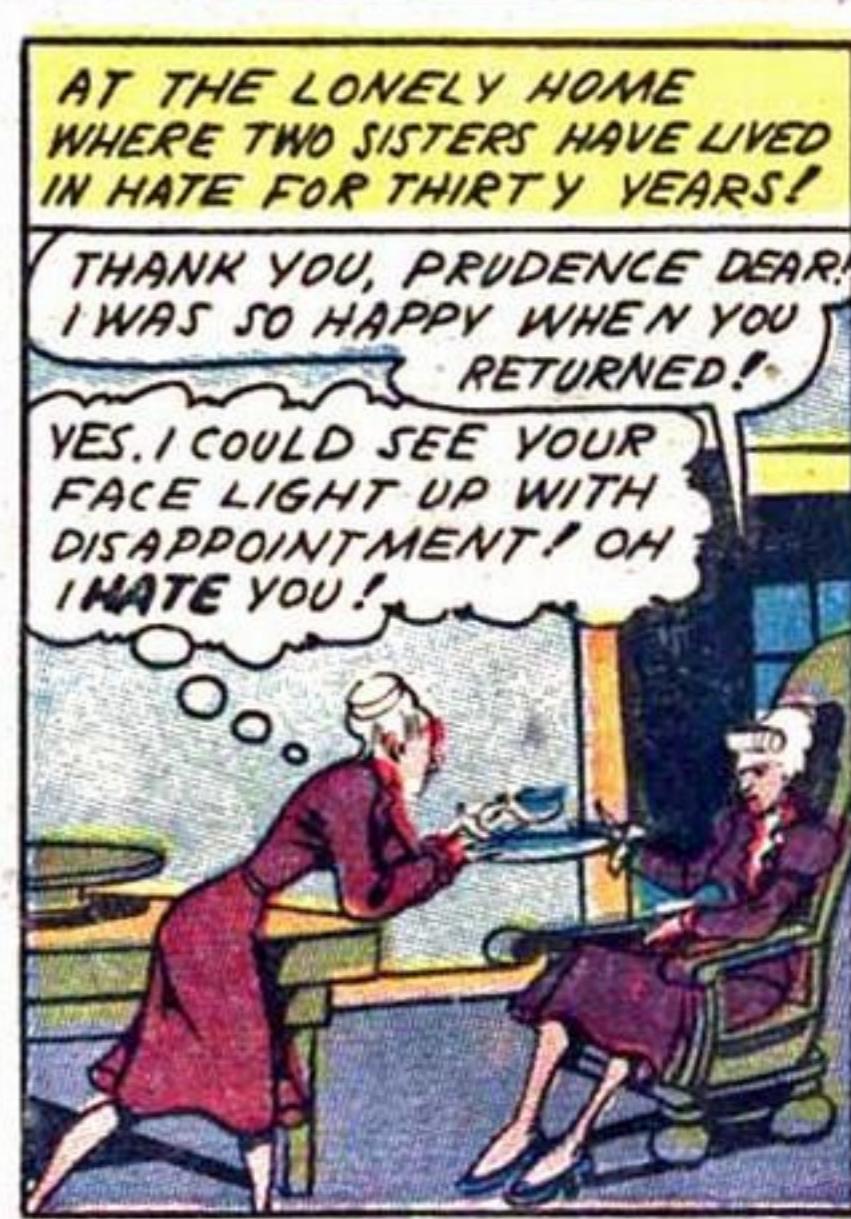
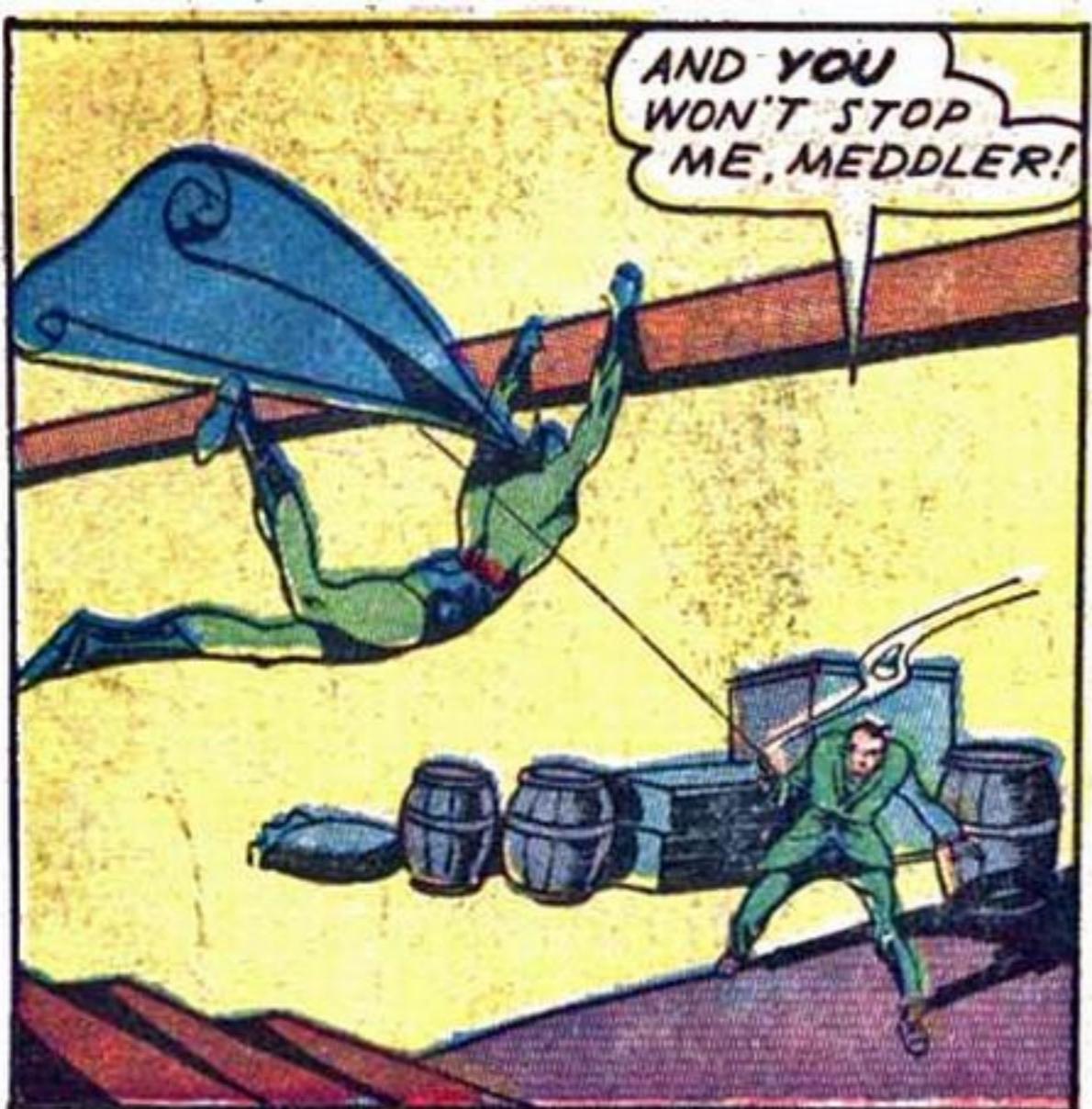
HEY, DOWN THERE! COME ON UP! THE FLOOD WENT DOWN HOURS AGO! IT'S SAFE NOW!



GREAT SCOTT! THEN ALL THE TIME WE WERE DOWN THERE CONFESSING WE COULD HAVE OPENED THE DOOR AND WALKED OUT!







JUST AS I THOUGHT.
POISON!

I'M CALLING
THE POLICE!

HOW CAN PEOPLE BE SO BESTIAL AND
HYPOCRITICAL? SWEARING TO DO RIGHT
AND THEN TURN RIGHT AROUND
AND BECOME WORSE THAN EVER?
SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I'M LOSING
FAITH IN HUMAN NATURE!

NO TIME FOR MEDITATION!
THE HANGMAN HAS ONE
MORE TO DEAL WITH!

DIPPY DIRK, THAT DE-
PRAVED BEAST DIDN'T
REPENT SO HE'LL BE
WORSE THAN THE OTHERS.
I'LL SEE WHAT
HE'S UP TO!

SO, DIPPY, YOU'RE ALL
READY TO PULL ANOTHER
JOB? WELL, YOU'LL ANSWER
TO THE HANGMAN RIGHT
NOW!

HANGMAN
NO NO!

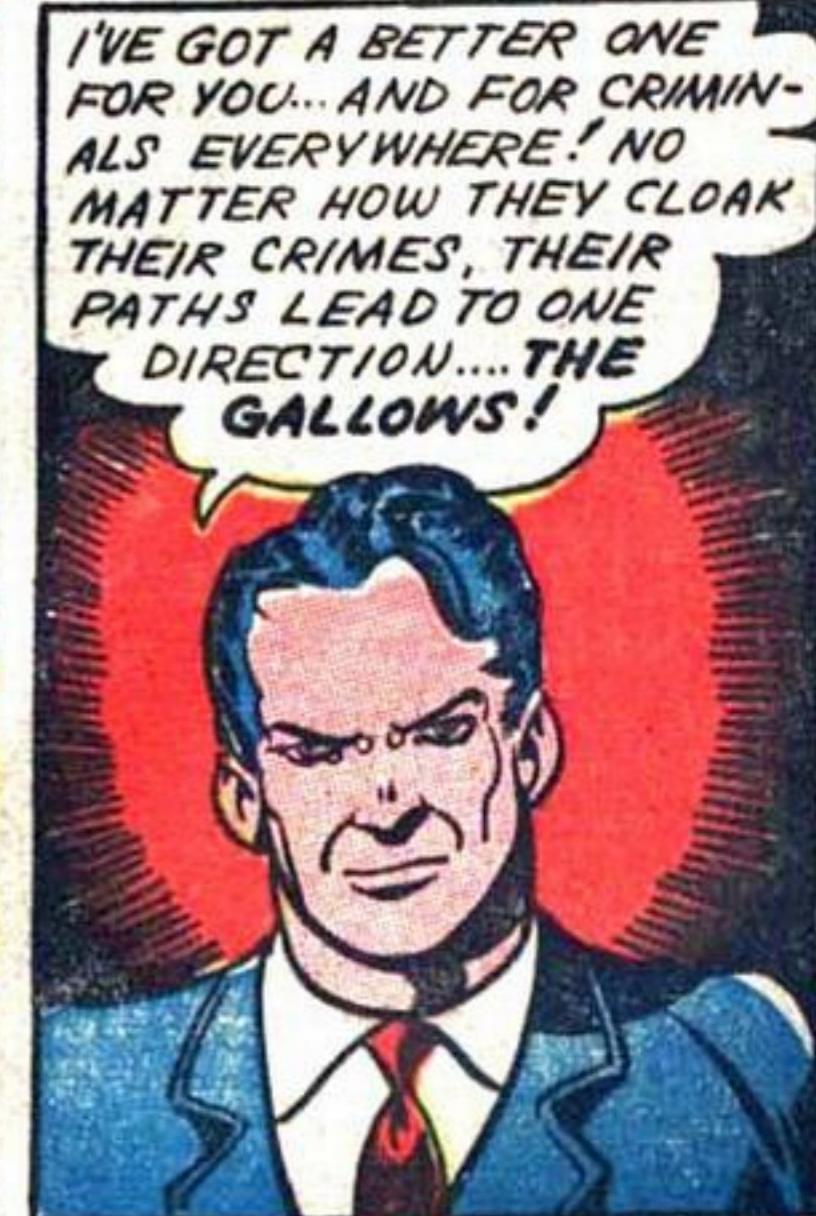
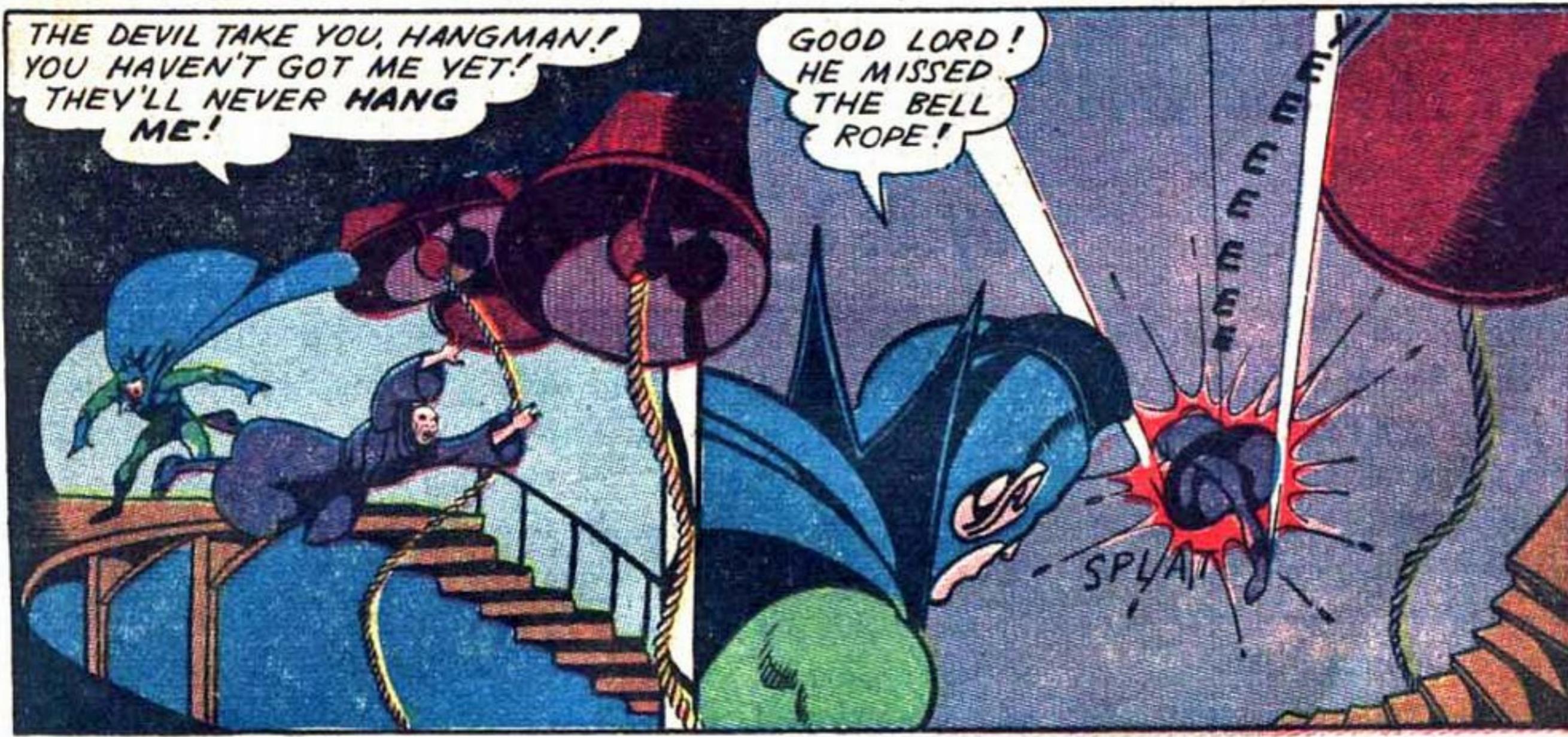
HANGMAN. YOU'VE
GOT ME WRONG!

WRONG NOTHING!
I'LL, HUH?

LOOK AT DIS, CHUMP!
IT'S MY SIGNED CON-
FESSION TO ALL DA
CRIMES I PULLED
IN DA
PAST!

me. Alvin "Dippy"
Dirk, Confess to the
following crimes—
main Bank — Apr. 9
Slugging Watchman — Apr. 9
Holdup — Apr. 11
Shooting — Apr. 12
Robbery — Apr. 14







IS GERMANY'S SECRET WEAPON A ROCKET PLANE?

by R. L. Clough

THE rocket plane, both real and fictional, keeps cropping up from time to time. The idea of a sleek, stub-winged craft roaring through the heavens on a plume of smoke is intriguing to designers and fictional writers alike.

It is a fairly well-known fact that the Germans have applied booster rockets to some of its heavily loaded bombers and transports to assist in taking off. There seems to be two distinct variations to this idea. In the first, and probably most widely known method, a series of powder rockets are attached to the under side of the plane's wings. These are fired as soon as the ship begins to roll, thereby adding considerable thrust to the already over-taxed engines. The duration of the rocket-charges is of necessity rather short, perhaps no

more than five or ten seconds, but this is usually sufficient to boost the heavily loaded ship from the ground.

The other method, which I have reason to believe is not in such wide use, consists of a track, and a carriage to which a group of rockets are attached. The plane is lowered into a cradle upon the rail-car and its engines are opened wide. At a given signal, the rockets which propel the car are fired, simultaneous with the releasing of the gear which has held the plane stationary. This provides an enormous take-off spurt which will lift a much-overloaded bomber into the air, something which could not be done by the thrust of its engines alone.

The disadvantage of method number two are fairly obvious. The track must of course be

laid in one direction without permitting changes in the event of a cross-wind, unless, that is, several alternate tracks are laid. To do this increases the vulnerability of the take-off point to attacks by air. The only distinct advantage it has over the other method of rocket launching, is that the take-off is made with wheels retracted, greatly decreasing wind resistance, and further facilitating the take-off.

Since 1929 the Germans have been experimenting with rocket propulsion as applied to aircraft. The first attempts were mainly made with gliders, to which were affixed powder-rockets, similar to the kind the Coast Guard uses for signal purposes. Flights of up to five miles were made in crafts of this kind. The rockets were not used as a take-off impetus in

most cases as their duration was brief. The practice was to launch the gliders with shock cord, and use the rockets as power units after the ship was in the air. In nearly every instance these experiments were terminated by violent explosions. The rocket craze appeared to die out except in the hearts of a few ardent experimenters.

New fuels were developed, as were improved methods of burning them. Liquid oxygen and gasoline, liquid hydrogen and oxygen and combinations of other liquid and gaseous fuels were tried. One engine was developed which used powdered fuel, blown into its combustion chamber in the form of dust. Others, not only in Germany but all over the world, tried every conceivable method of applying reaction-thrust to all sorts of vehicles. Some believed that the overheating problem could be solved by intermittent explosions. That is a series of explosions, one after the other delivering a steady push. New alloys were developed to withstand the terrific heats developed in the reaction engines. Data was collected, data that would one day prove extremely useful.

The Americans and British have not been far behind, if indeed they are behind at all. Prof. Goddard's experiments in New Mexico with strato rockets capable of 700 m.p.h. are familiar to all of us. Before the present war, rumors of a

fuel-oil burning rocket plane had leaked out of England. It had been developed by an officer of the R.A.F. Nothing has been heard of it since, but is it not logical that it may be under further improvement?

For a time in Austria there was a regular rocket-mail. The stamp with the winged rocket is familiar to stamp collectors the world over.

I had the opportunity to talk to a young Jewish refugee just before the outbreak of the war. Somehow or other the conversation switched to rockets. I was told very matter-of-factly that the Germans had been flying a rocket-propelled plane for some time. Nor were the rockets attached as an auxiliary unit. They were the sole propulsive force of the aircraft, no propeller of any kind was used, the take-off being supplied entirely by the rockets. This was in 1937. That was five years ago. It would seem that plenty of time has elapsed in which the plane might be perfected. The Me. 109 was developed from its prototypes in a matter of slightly less than three years.

The Germans are not ones to overlook any possibilities. If the rocket plane they built would fly at all, it would be capable of further exploitation.

The rocket plane would be a terrible weapon. It would be capable of speeds far in excess of present-day fighters. It would require no super-charging to operate in the stratosphere. For all practical purposes it would be silent, except

for a slight hiss. Because of the fact that a rocket engine develops power all out of proportion to its size it could either carry more fuel to increase its range, or a heavier pay-load of guns or bombs. It would be more invulnerable, the small size of the propelling unit would easily lend itself to better armoring. The wake of smoke and/or gases which it would trail would prove an effective deterrent to an opponent seeking to pick it off from behind. It would be capable of startling acceleration, performing maneuvers impossible to propeller-driven aircraft, such as diving straight up at speeds approached by regular fighters on the level.

Perhaps the Nazis have been hoarding just such a weapon against the time when it would be most sorely needed. The time may be approaching when they will pull such a weapon out of their bag of tricks. Perhaps it will take us by surprise. Perhaps it will not, for, don't forget that we have many smart rocket engineers on our side, who are not going to overlook such a possibility.

Yes, I think it is entirely within the bounds of reason to expect to see rocket planes developed during this conflict. It is the obvious answer to the propellers' nasty trick of losing efficiency at high speeds. The Nazis may try to slip a fast one over on us with their rockets. But . . . don't say I didn't warn you. . . . We might beat them to it.

THE BLACK HOOD

in

The little crime
that wasn't
there!

MAN

of
MYSTERY



IN PRECINCT 71

SO, YA THINK THE WAY TO CATCH CROOKS IS WITH SCIENCE, HUH, KIP? FOLLOW ME!

OH, OH.. THIS SOUNDS LIKE A LECTURE, SARGE!

YOU BET IT IS, PATROLMAN BURLAND! A LECTURE ON HOW TO CATCH CROOKS! AN' WE DIDN'T USE NO SCIENTIFIC HOTSY-POTSY NEITHER!

I JUST SENT A STRONG ARM SQUAD OUT WITH A LOT OF STURDY NIGHTSTICKS-- NOT FANCY THEORIES!

WELL, ONE OF MY FANCY "THEORIES" MIGHT DO YOU SOME GOOD NOW, SERGEANT MC. GINTY!

WHADDYA MEAN?

WELL, THIS IS, DIP FINELLI, A VERY NIFTY PICK POCKET, RIGHT?

AND YOU PASSED PRETTY CLOSE TO HIM! SO.. PRESTO YOUR WATCH, SARGE!

TICK
TICK

P.F-T-T-T
P.F-F-T-T-T-

P.F-F-T-T-T-

DAGNABBIT, KIP!
I STILL SAY, AFTER
TWENTY FIVE
YEARS ON THE
FORCE....

WHAT?
YOU AGAIN!
NOW LOOK,
MRS. HAYMES,
YOUR NEPHEW
TOLD ME....

WAIT A MINUTE,
MRS. HAYMES, ON
SECOND THOUGHT
I THINK I WILL
SEND A
MAN
OVER!

ALL RIGHT, KIP!
I'LL GIVE YOU A
CHANCE TO PROVE
YER SCIENTIFIC,
HOTSY-POTSY!
I'M ASSIGNING
YOU TO SPECIAL
DUTY AT THE
BANQUET, AT THE
HAYMES MANSION!

FINE,
SARGE!
BUT HAS A
CRIME BEEN
COMMITTED?

EVERY TIME
THEY HAVE
THOSE BANQUETS
SHE SAYS HER
JEWELS ARE
ALWAYS BEIN'
STOLEN!

HMM--
I'LL FIND
THE CROOK,
ALL RIGHT!

HA-HA--IF YA DO,
I'LL PUSH A PEANUT
INTO THE COMMISSIONER'S
OFFICE WITH
ME NOSE!

I DON'T LIKE
THE WAY MC. GINTY
LAUGHED WHEN
HE SAID THAT!

I'LL HOLD
YOU TO
THAT BET,
SARGE!

OH, WELL,
IF THERE'S
A CROOK,
I'LL FIND
HIM!

I'M MRS.
HAYMES/
WON'T YOU
COME IN?

R-RING

MRS. HAYMES,
PLEASE!

YOU CAN
GO BACK TO
YOUR GUESTS,
MA'M! I'LL SEE
NOTHING
HAPPENS!

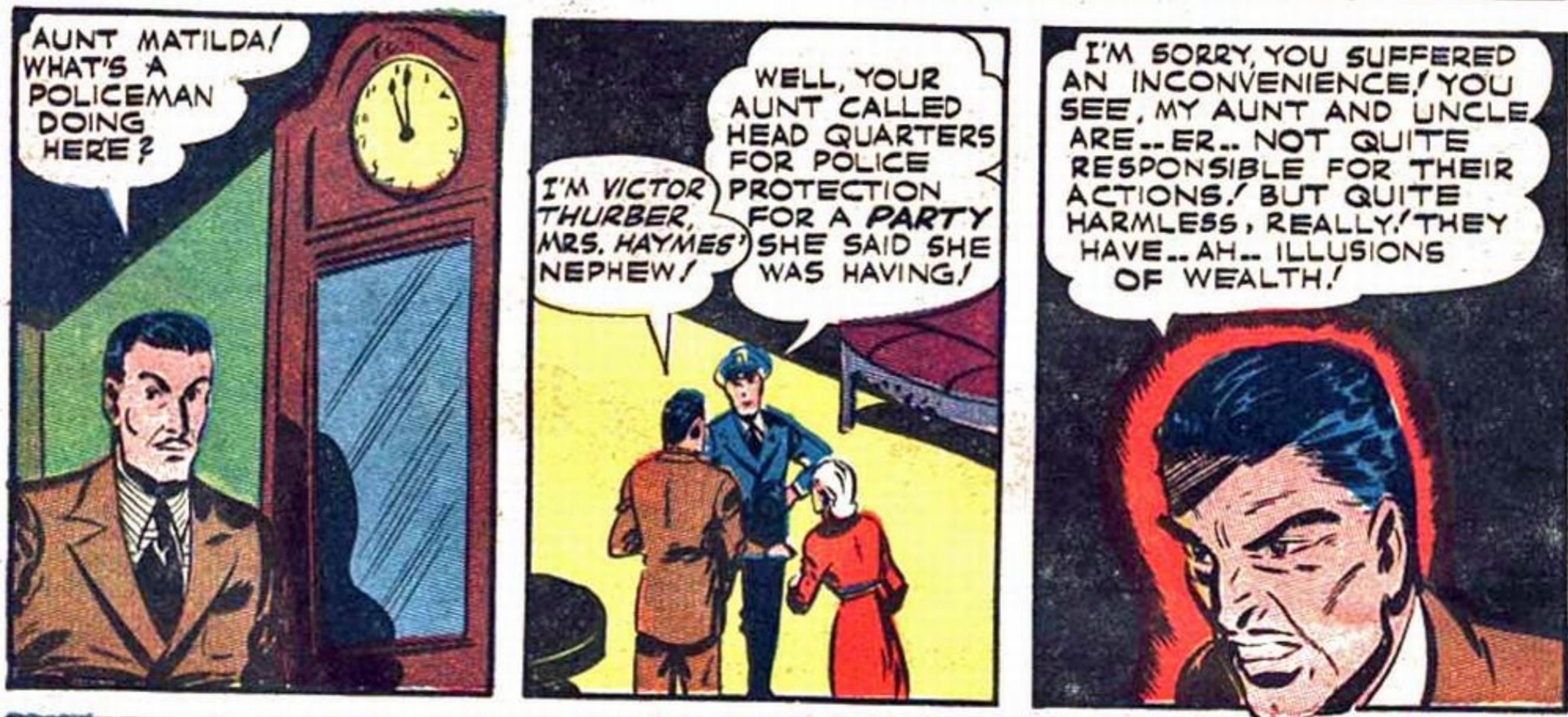
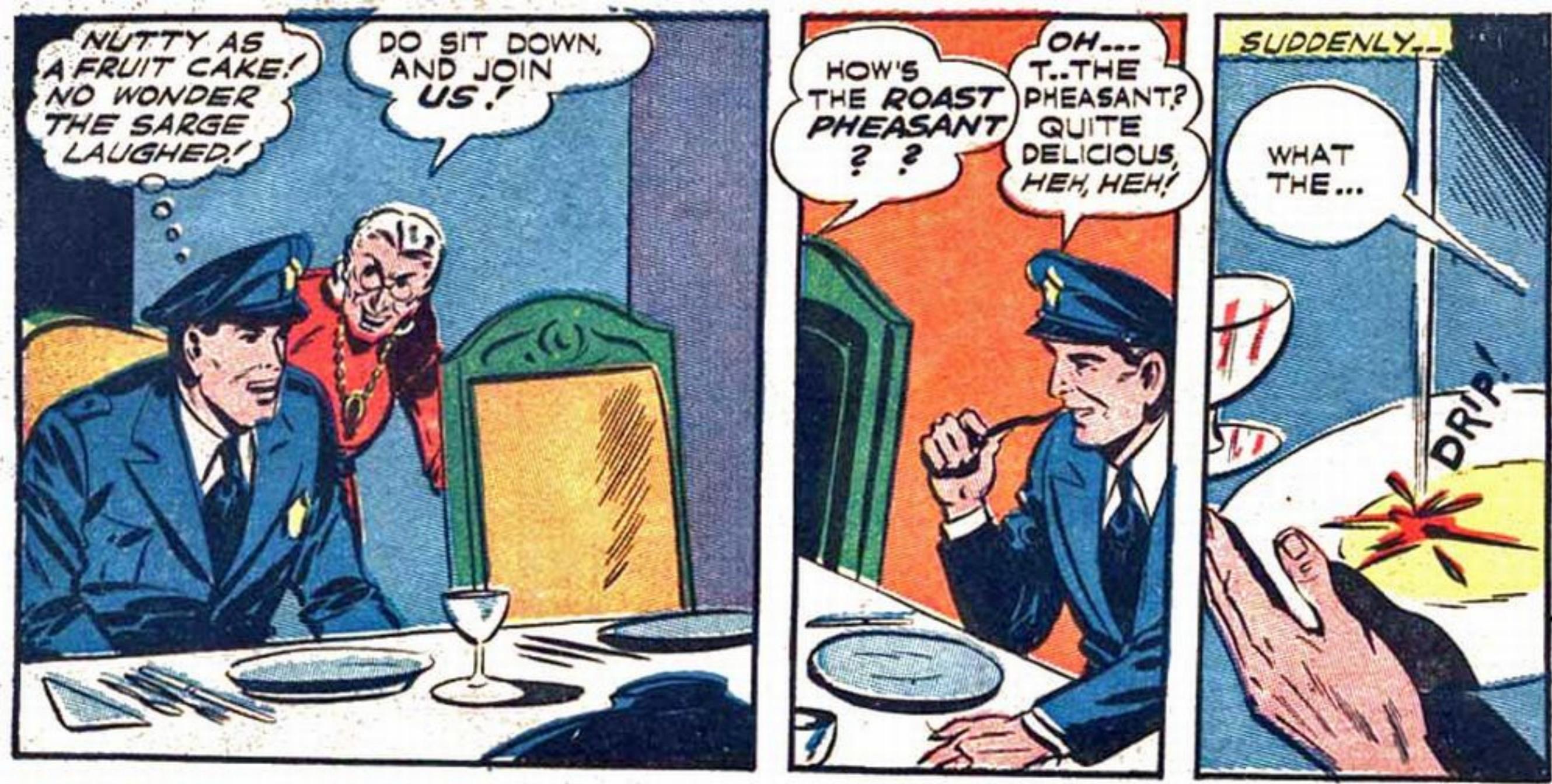
THANK YOU!
BUT FIRST, YOU
MUST COME
IN, AND MEET
MY GUESTS!

GULP!

WHY, SITTING IN THEIR
CHAIRS, OF COURSE! HERE
ARE THE VAN PUYSTERS,
AND THE MELLONS, AND
THE FRITCHIES! ALL VERY
DISTINGUISHED PEOPLE!

WHERE
ARE YOUR GUESTS,
MRS. HAYMES?





THIS IS THE
ROOM, DIRECTLY
OVER THE
DINING TABLE,
I FIGURE!

SAY, WHAT'S
THAT SPOTCH
BY THE CLOSET
DOOR?

BLOOD!

GOOD GOSH!
A MAN'S
BODY!

AND IF MY
HUNCH IS
RIGHT, THIS
IS MR. HAYMES!

THAT MEANS,
MRS. HAYMES IS
IN DEADLY DANGER
TOO!

TOO LATE! THE
MURDEROUS FIEND
ALREADY GOT
TO HER!

CRACK!

WHEN THE HOOD COMES TO...



YES! I KILLED THE
INSANE OLD FOOLS!
FOR YEARS I LIVED WITH
THEM, KNOWING THAT
THEY HAD GREAT WEALTH
HIDDEN IN THIS HOUSE/
IDIOTIC AS THEY WERE,
I NEVER COULD GET
THEM TO REVEAL THE
HIDING PLACE!

I HIT ON
THE IDEA OF
LETTING THEM
GIVE THESE PHANTOM
PARTIES, KNOWING
THEY'D WEAR THEIR
BEST JEWELRY,
WHICH I STOLE!

BUT IT WAS
TOO SLOW A METHOD/
TONIGHT, I TRIED TO
WORM THE HIDING
PLACE OUT OF MY
UNCLE, BUT HE
WAS STUBBORN,
SO, I KILLED
HIM!



I WAS DETERMINED TO
GET THAT WEALTH TONIGHT,
AND WHEN MY AUNT
REFUSED TO TELL ME,
I KILLED HER TOO! NOW,
YOU'RE NEXT!
FAREWELL, SNOOPER!

THE KNIFE!
IT'S MY
ONLY
CHANCE!

CURSE YOU,
AND YOUR
CLEVER TRICKS,
HOOD!

BUT I'LL FINISH
YOU OFF THIS...
O OFF...

CRACK

HELP! MY
HAND IS
STUCK!

WATCH THE
BIRDIE,
RAT!

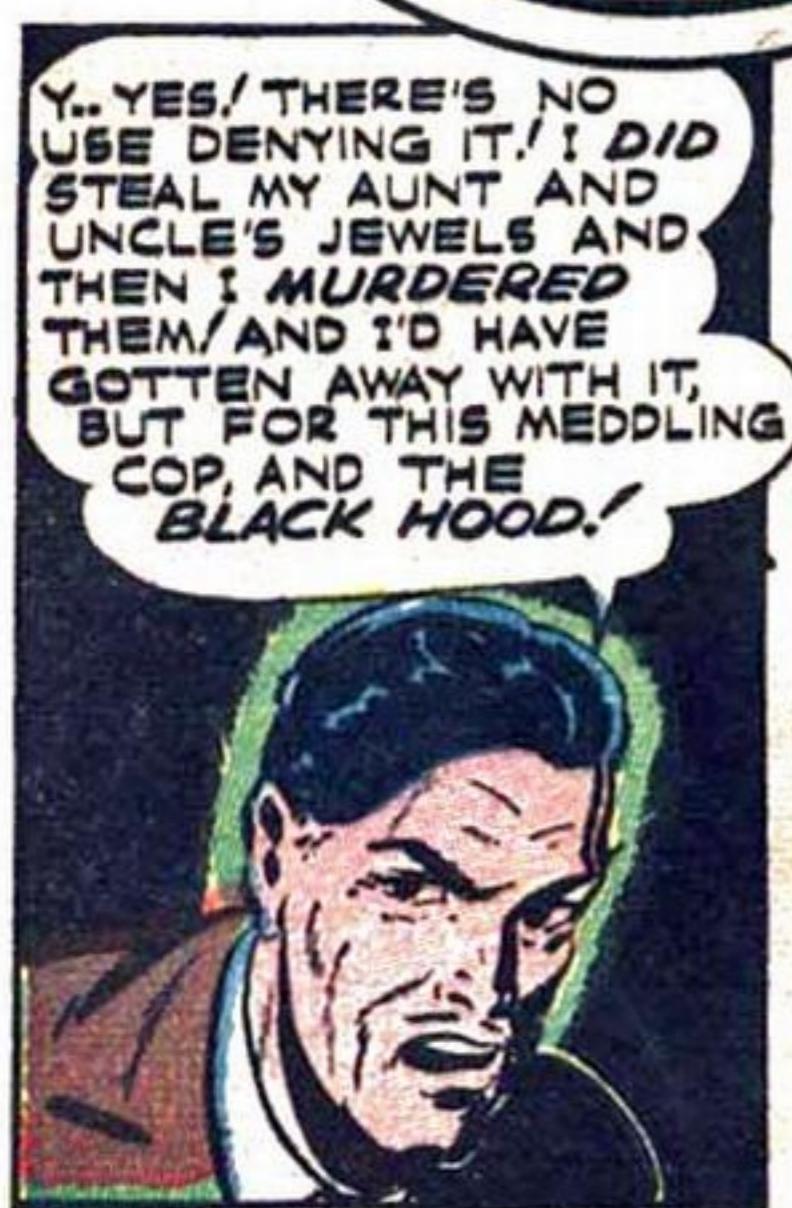
NOW, ISN'T
THAT TOO
BAD!

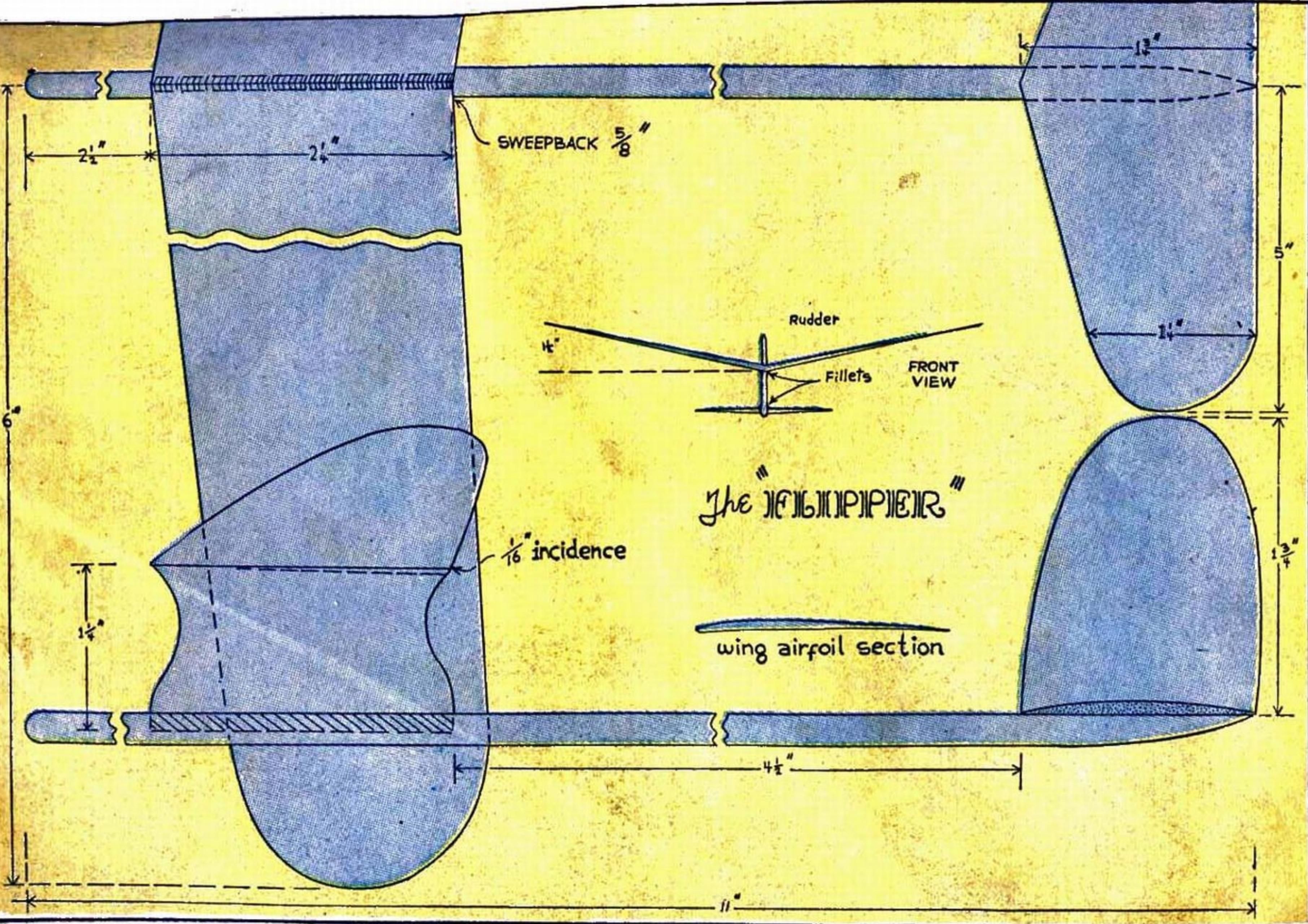
WELL, I'LL BE...
HIS FIST CRACKED
OPEN THE
HIDING PLACE!

HAW, HAW.. KIP SHOULD
BE COMIN' BACK ANY
MINUTE, WITH HIS TAIL
BETWEEN HIS
LEGS!

I'LL HAVE
THE LAUGH
ON HIM FER
A YEAR!
WHAT TH...

HIYA,
SARGE!





HOW TO BUILD THE "FLIPPER"

THE "FLIPPER" IS AN EASY GLIDER TO BUILD AND WHEN CONSTRUCTED WITH A LITTLE CARE, TURNS IN CONSISTENTLY GOOD FLIGHTS. START BY SELECTING A HARD PIECE OF $\frac{1}{4}$ SQUARE FOR THE BODY. ROUND AND STREAMLINE IT EVERYWHERE EXCEPT WHERE THE PYLON AND TAIL GOES.

CUT OUT WING OUTLINE, SAND TO AN ACCURATE AIRFOIL SECTION. PUT IN SWEETBACK AND TAPER WING FROM $2\frac{1}{4}$ AT CENTER TO $1\frac{1}{8}$ AT TIPS. PUT IN DIHEDRAL AND GLUE A STRIP OF GAUZE OVER CENTER SECTION. (NOT SHOWN IN DRAWING.) CONSTRUCT PYLON BY GLUEING TWO PIECES OF SIXTEENTH SHEET TOGETHER AT CROSS-GRAINS. CUT A SLOT IN THE FUSELAGE AND GLUE AND INSERT PYLON. GLUE WING TO TOP OF PYLON AND MAKE FILLETS OF SAWDUST AND GLUE WHERE WING MEETS PYLON, AND WHERE PYLON MEETS THE BODY. SAND PYLON TO STREAMLINE. ADD STABILIZER AND RUDDER AND GIVE ENTIRE GLIDER A THIN COAT OF GLUE. CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO KEEP SURFACES FROM WARPING WHILE GLUE IS DRYING. IT IS BEST TO PIN DOWN SURFACES SUCCESSIVELY. AFTER THIS, SAND THE GLIDER UNTIL EVERYTHING ON IT IS GLOSSY AND SMOOTH.

BALANCE WITH CLAY AT THE NOSE TO GET A FLAT GLIDE. WARP RUDDER TO LEFT (LOOKING FROM THE REAR) AND LAUNCH INTO THE WIND IN A SWIFT RIGHT BANK. IF YOU ARE LEFT-HANDED WARP RUDDER RIGHT AND LAUNCH OPPOSITE.

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STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 21, 1912,
 AND MARCH 3, 1933 of HANGMAN COMICS, published quarterly at St. Louis, Mo., for October 1, 1943.

Name of the Corp.: —

Being a minor publication and for the State and County addressed,
 additional universal funds at Philadelphia, who, having been duly sworn before
 me on this day and before me, that he is the publisher of the HANGMAN
 COMICS, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief,
 correct statement of the ownership, management and circulation
 of the above-named publication for the date shown in the
 above caption, recorded by the Act of August 21, 1912, as amended by the
 Act of March 3, 1933, as defined in section 122 Statute Laws and Regulations,
 appears as the record of this form, is as follows:

The name and address of the publisher, editor, managing editor,
 and business manager are: Publisher, Eddie L. Goldstein, 100 West
 Broadway, New York City; Editor, Eddie Morris, 100 West Broadway, New
 York City; Managing Editor, Eddie L. Goldstein, 100 West Broadway, New
 York City; Business Manager, Louis M. Goldstein, 100 West Broadway,
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That the name of the owner is: Corporation, its name and address
 being so stated and also the name and address of the managing
 editor, and the name and address of the publisher or manager, trustee or
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 of the corporation by value, or by number of shares, or both, or
 directors may be given. It is noted by a firm, corporation, or other organization,
 the name and address, as well as name of each individual member,
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That the names of subscribers, advertising agencies, and other persons
 owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock, mentioned in
 either caption page 10 above, are those of Eddie L. Goldstein.

That the two signatures were above placed the names of the owners,
 publishers and editors below. If the names are not the last of stock
 holders and editors, however, as there would be no right of the company
 to sue to recover where the stockholder or editor, whose name appears upon the
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 of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting to sue, also
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 company as trustee and editor, and which is contained in a manner more than that
 of a table of contents, and that where the name is given in letters that and other
 persons appearing on the same page are not listed, either by name or
 stock, name, or other descriptive term as he desires to be.

Editor: E. GOLDSTEIN, Publisher

Entered as second-class postage due on Oct. 1, 1943,
 MAXWELL CUTTER, Postage Paid, this sixteenth edition, November 20, 1943.

ROY
and
DUSTY
in

BOY BUDDIES

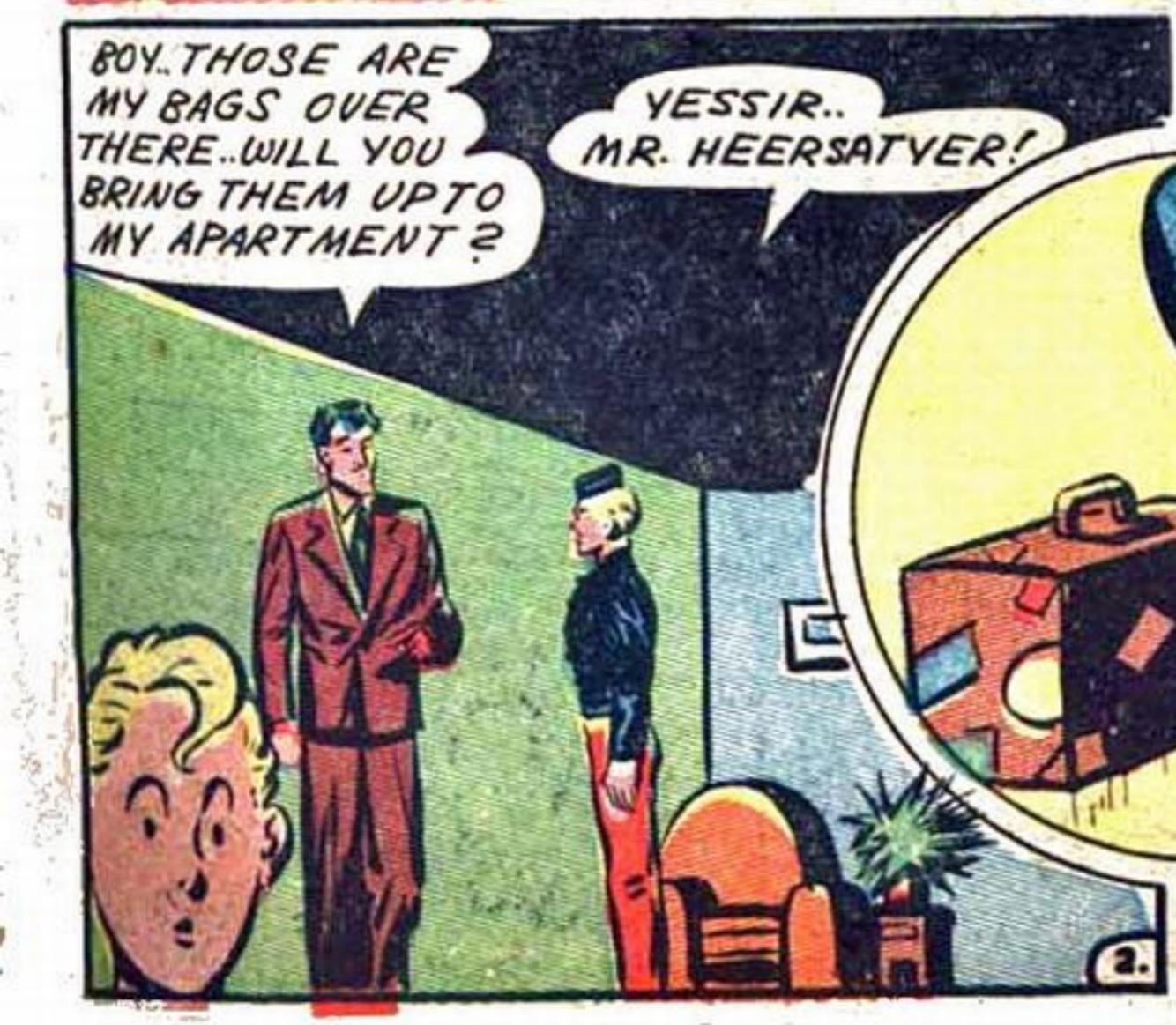
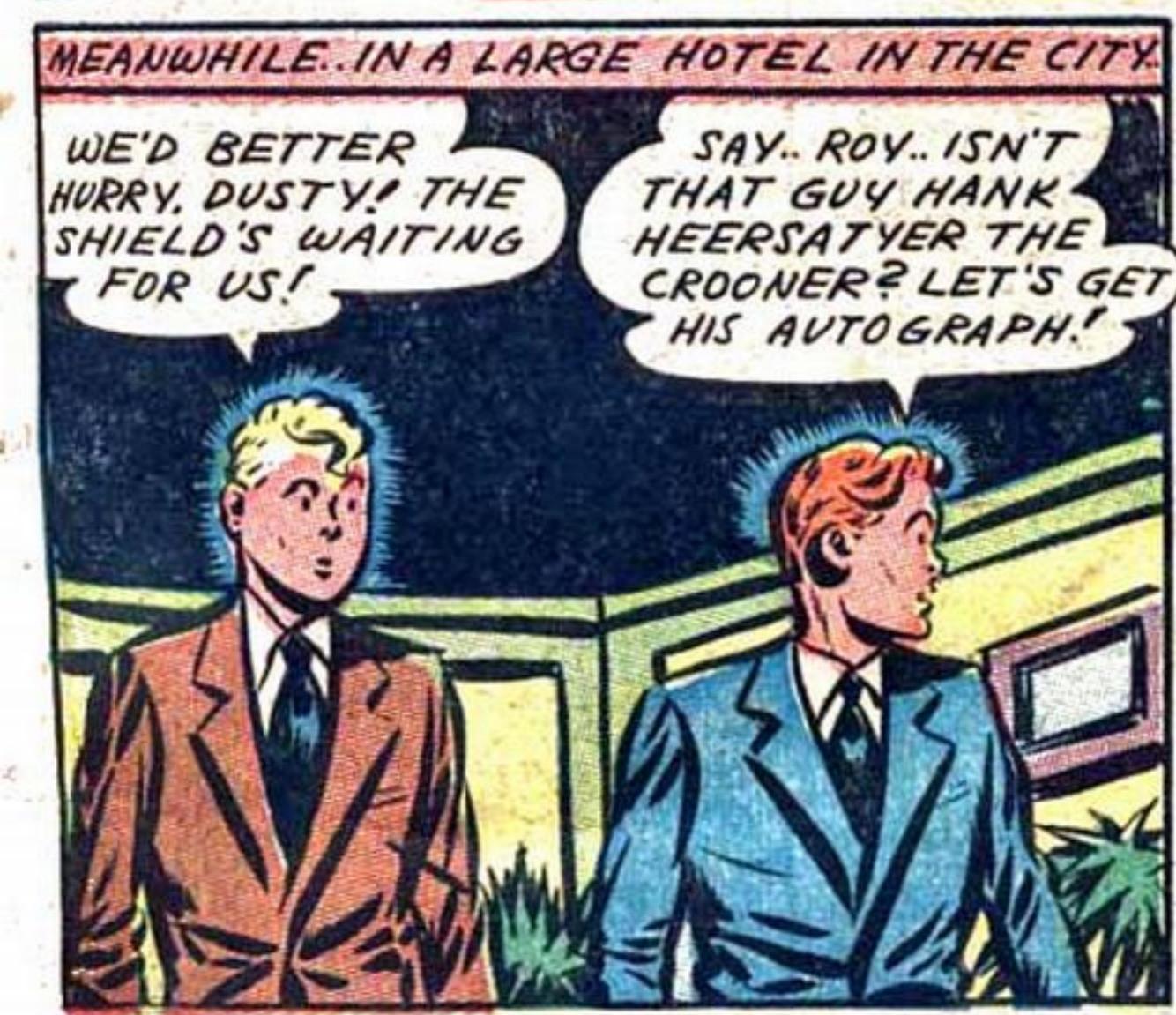


OUR STORY BEGINS IN A SHABBY APARTMENT.
THE OCCUPANTS ARE TWO MEN OF THE
UNDERWORLD... CROOKS...

THAT CROONER,
HANK HEERSATYER
IS ARRIVING THIS
AFTERNOON.. HAVE
YOU GOT ALL THE
PLANS CLEAR IN
YOUR MIND?

SURE..
JACKSON!

WE JUST WALK INTO HIS
APARTMENT.. STICK A GAT IN
HIS FACE.. WE TAKE HIM BACK
HERE.. AND THEN HOLD HIM
FOR \$10,000 RANSOM.. HIS FANS
WILL DO ANYTHING TO GET HIM
BACK... THAT GUY IS CERTAINLY
POPULAR WIT' THE WOMEN..



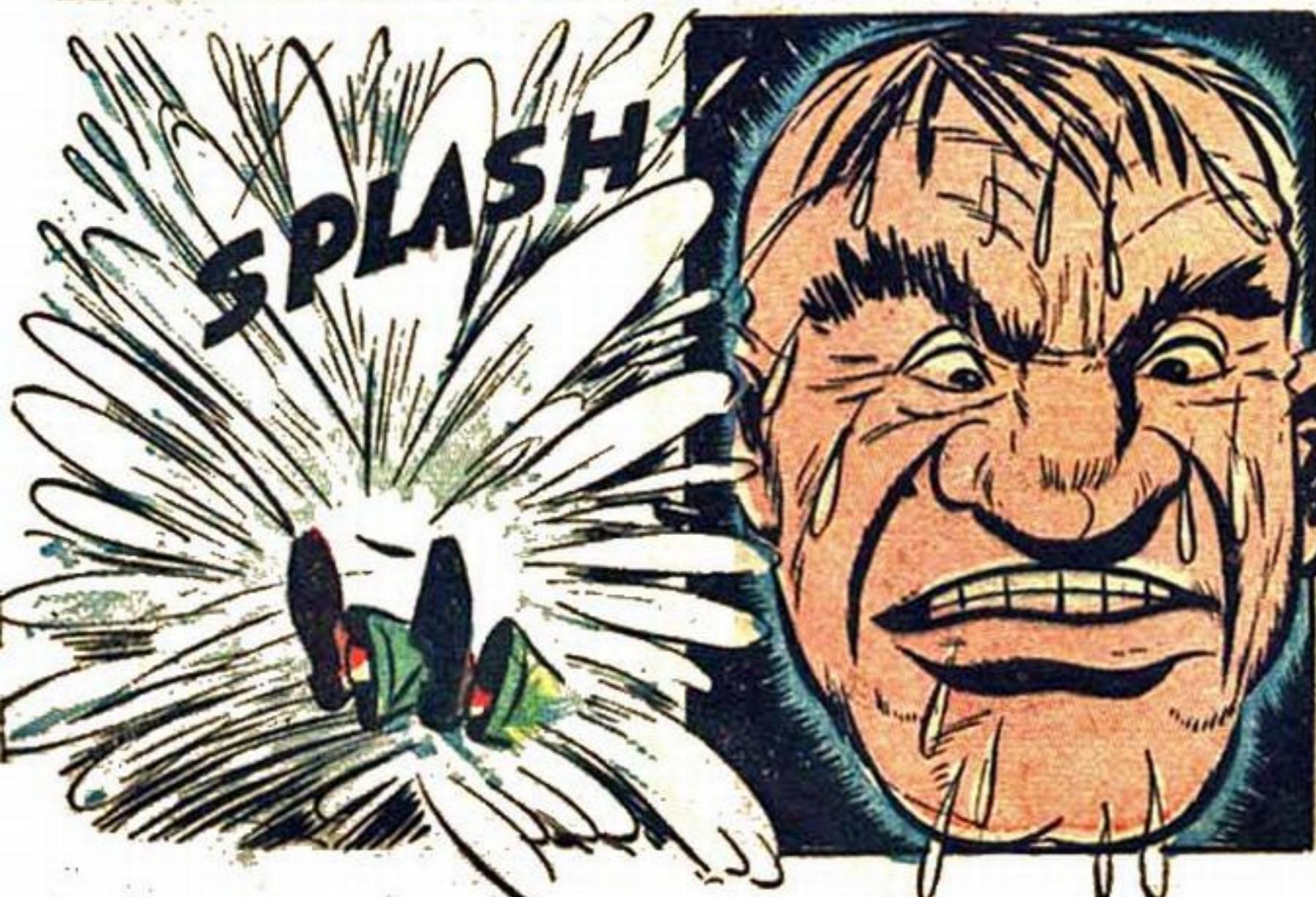
LATER THAT DAY...

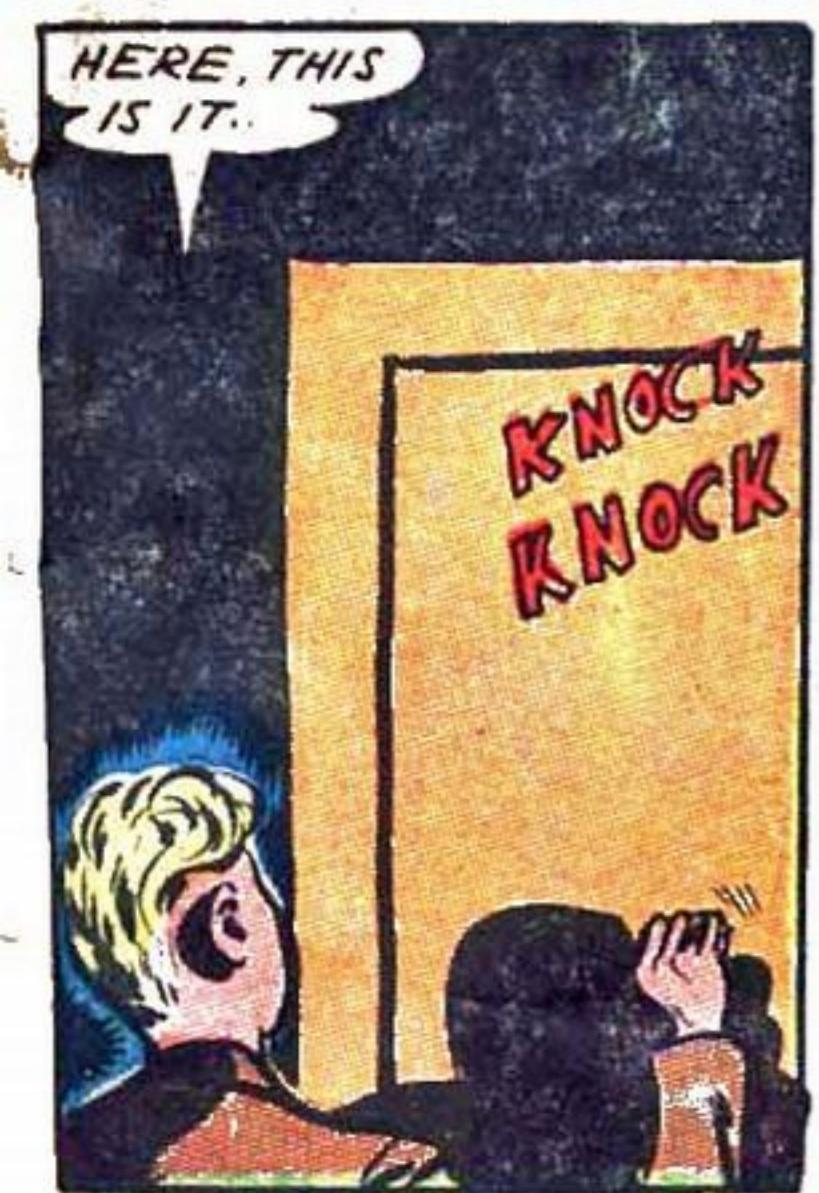
WE'RE HERE TO
GUARD MR. HEER-
SATYER. WHAT'S
HIS APARTMENT?

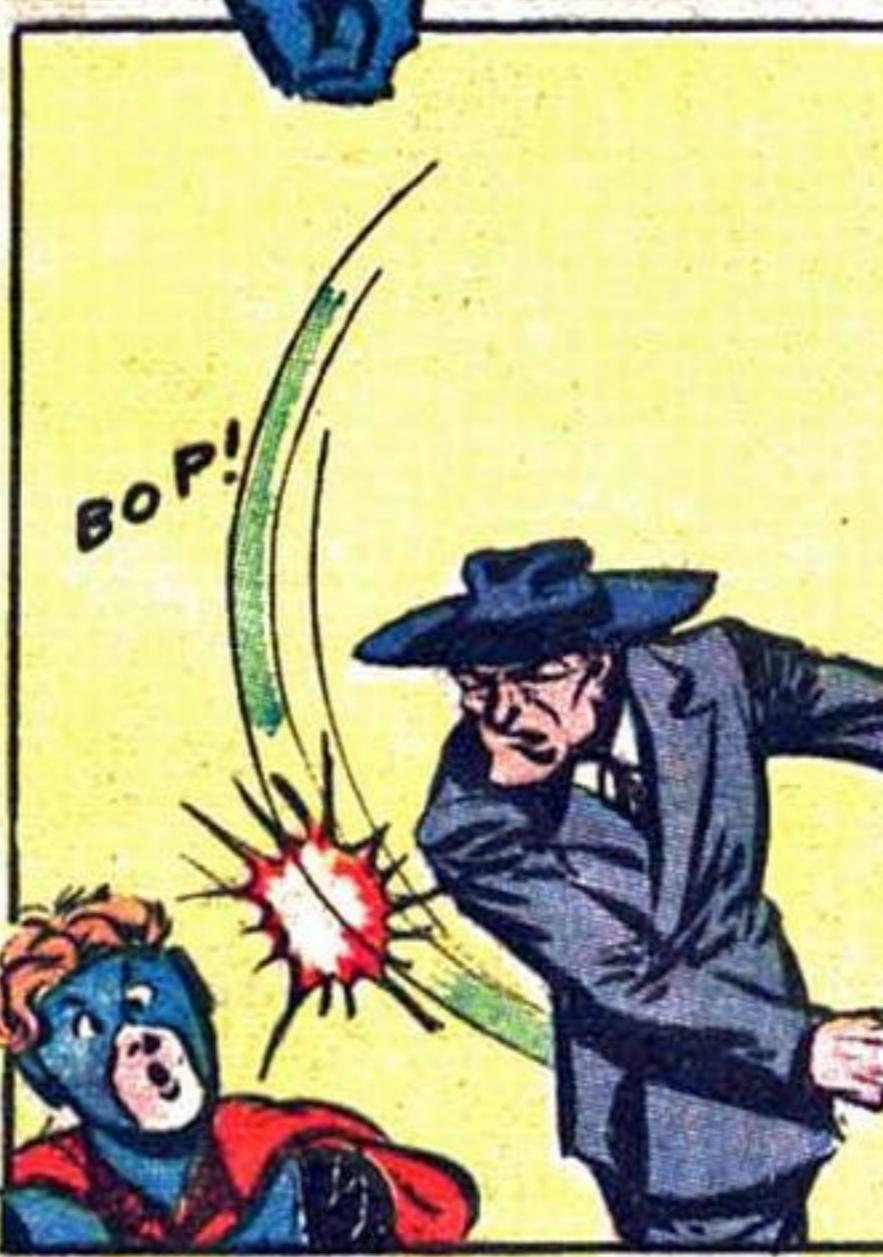
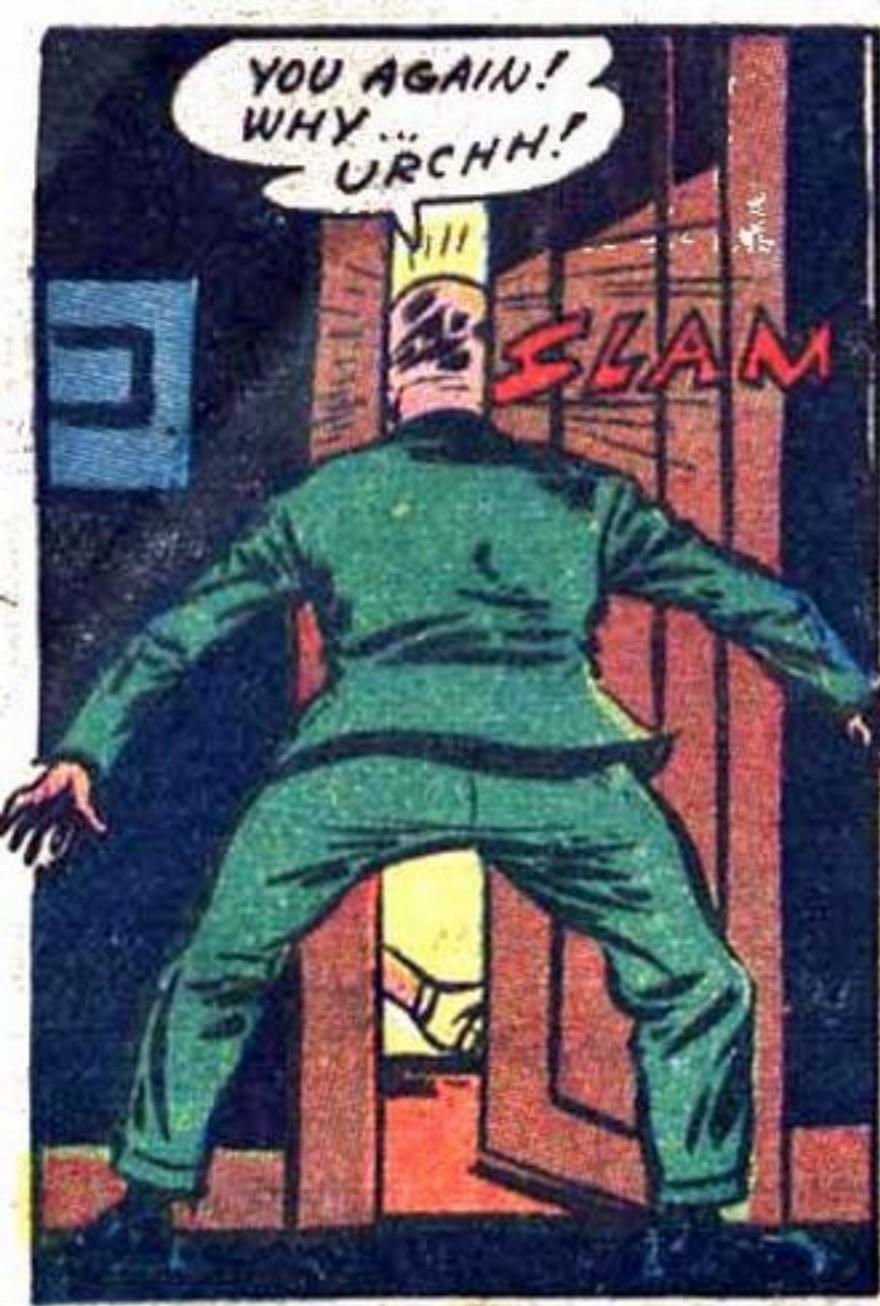
OH.. WHY
THAT'S 4A
SIR...

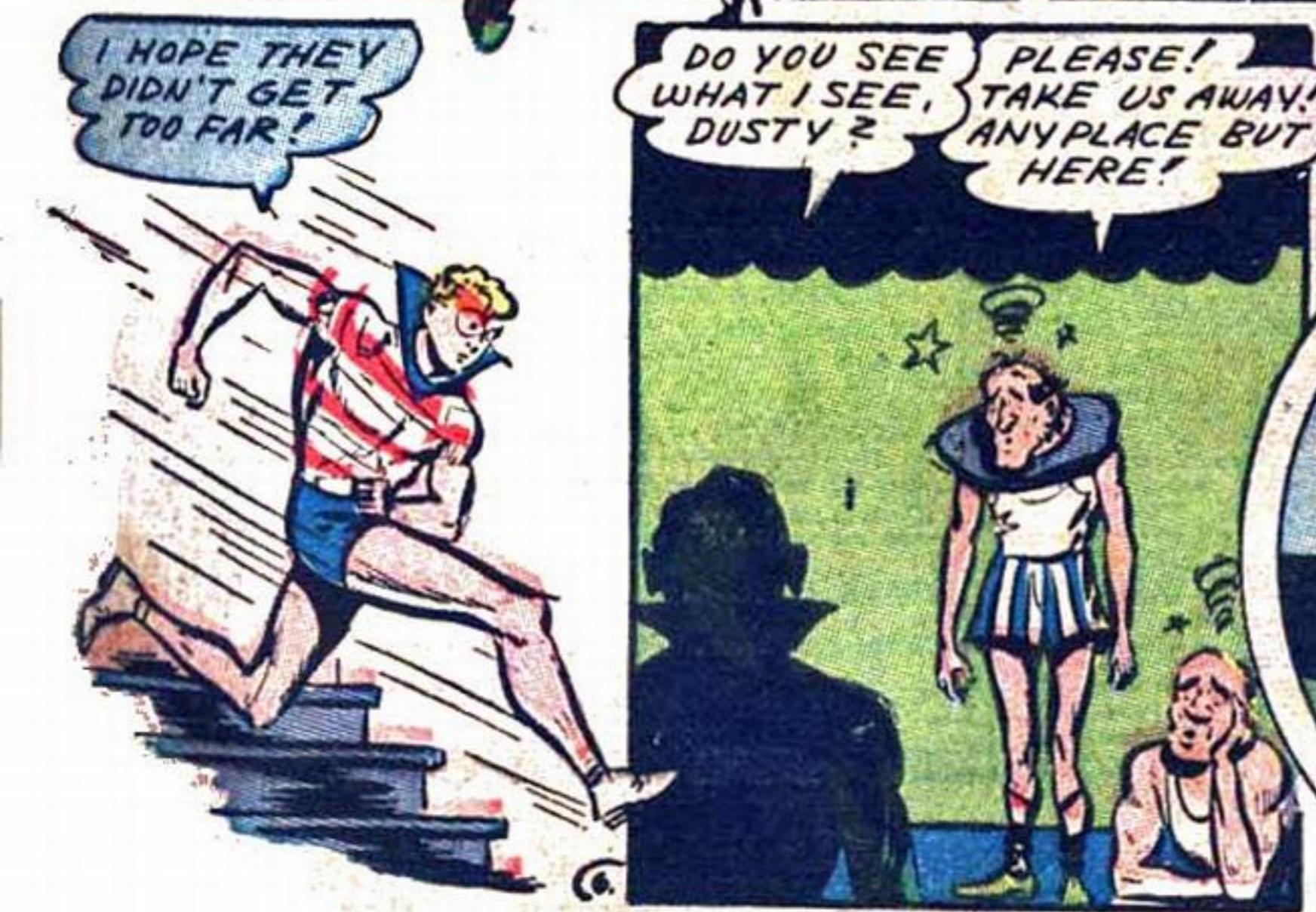
OKAY.. LET'S
GO IN AND GET
THIS OVER WIT...

NO ONE HERE..
MUST BE IN THE
BATHROOM.. I HEAR
WATER RUNNING...









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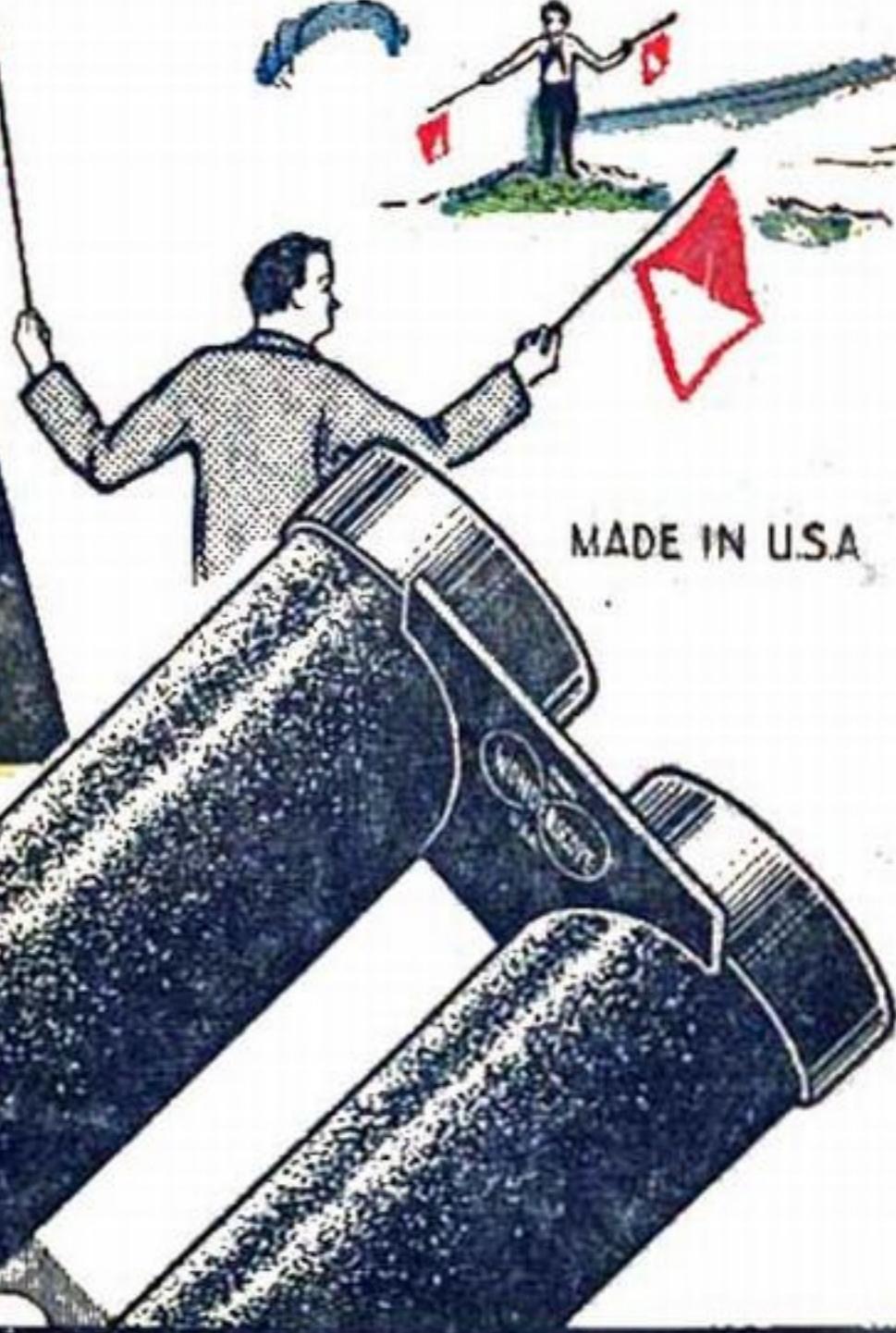
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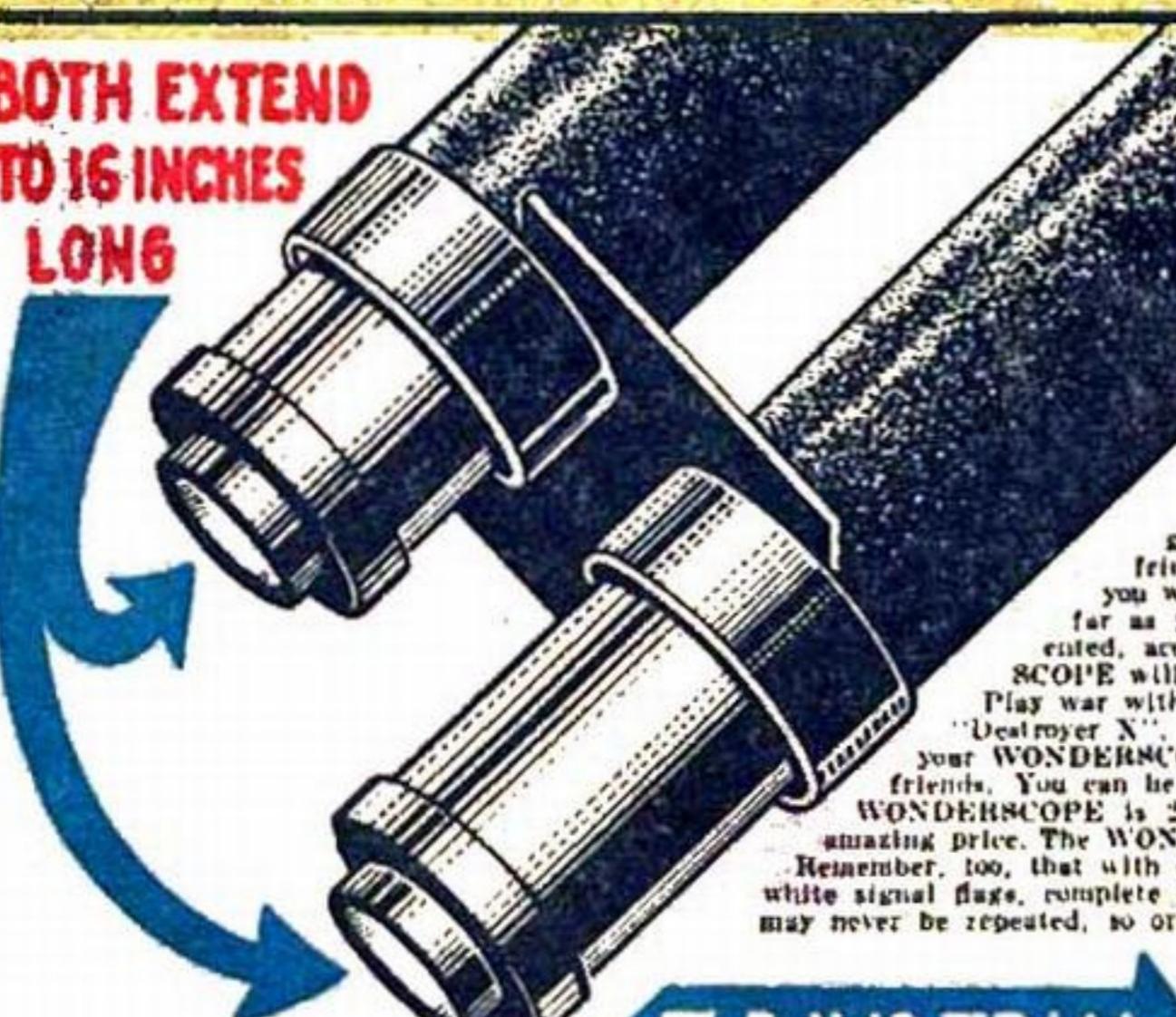
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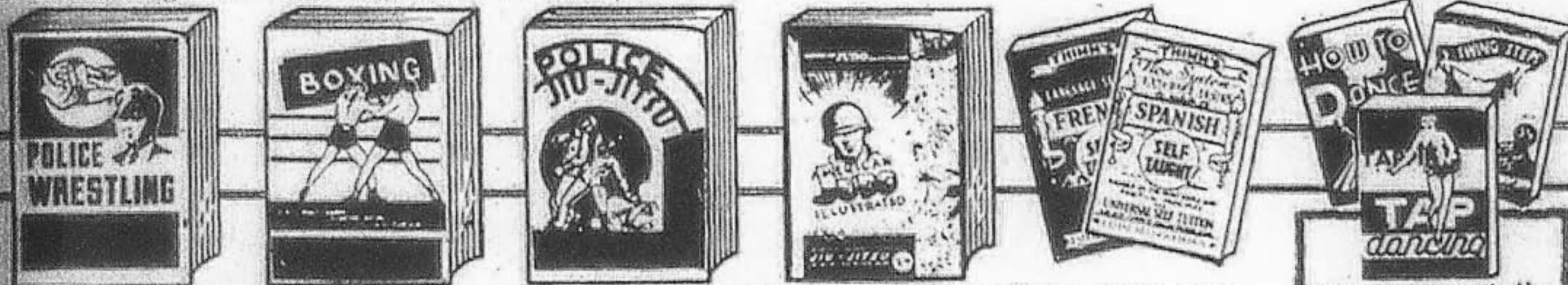
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